

hear war news

Townspeople gathered on courthouse lawn to

In spite of the fact that the country responded with "We are coming, Father Abraham," following President Lincoln's call for 300,000 troops in the summer of 1862, talk of conscription became quite general. Indiana's quota was 11,000 of its best men and boys.

The fife and drum were heard all day at the recruiting offices in Terre Haute. At the office on Main Street opposite the courthouse square, Thomas H. Wells and Ed Hitchcock were recruiting 150 men for a battery.

A. J. Welch and M. D. Topping opened a recruiting office in the dry goods store of Tuell, Brokaw & Company located on the north side of Wabash between Market (now Third) and Fourth streets. By 1863, Tuell & Ripley had a dry goods store at the corner of Fifth and Wabash.

Michael Dodson and J. C. Gifford recruited at the old armory on North Third, but the exact location is unknown. In 1858, the armory was listed at the northeast corner of First and Ohio, where the Fort Harrison Guards Militia was organized July 30, 1857.

Capt. Jabez Smith of the Eleventh Indiana hung out a banner near Fourth and Main. One of the military rendezvous of Terre Haute was Camp Dick Thompson on Poplar near 30th Street, on land owned by Curtis Gilbert. The barracks on this site burned about 1863.

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

At the Indiana Arsenal in Indianapolis about 700 men were employed in the fabrication of ammunition, turning out an average of 300,000 rounds daily.

To repel the Rebel raids in progress through central Kentucky in July 1862, Indiana's Gov. Oliver P. Morton sent off all effective forces that could be spared. To enable him to do this, he had called out a large number of militia to guard rebel prisoners at Indianapolis. The towns along the Ohio River border and all the Indiana border counties were left to protect themselves against invasion.

Evansville was particularly vulnerable, so 10 companies of volunteers were organized as the Seventy-Sixth Indiana Volunteers. Two companies from Terre

Haute were included in this regiment and arrived at Evansville on July 20, a German company of 100 Terre Haute men and the Union Rifles, splendidly armed and equipped and neatly uniformed, headed by Capt. Melville D. Topping.

Everything was in confusion at Evansville, but order was soon established and public confidence restored. A steam ram belonging to the government and lying at the landing was pressed into service by order of the governor until a gunboat could be procured from the fleet down the river.

Capt. Topping's company was placed on board and ordered to proceed up Green River to relieve two steamboats the rebels were believed to be planning to capture. They also were to protect the locks on that stream. They returned the next day, however, reporting the rebels were retiring to Henderson, Ky.

Events soon proved that the rush to send Indiana's quota into Kentucky was justified. Six regiments — the Twelfth, Sixteenth, Fifty-Fifth, Sixty-Sixth, Sixty-Ninth and the Seventy-First — with the Ninety-Fifth Ohio, Eighteenth Kentucky, a detachment of Kentucky cavalry and two batteries manned principally by teamsters and train guards cut off from the Cumberland Gap, had been moved beyond Lexington towards the advancing army of General Kirby Smith. The bloody battle of Richmond took place Aug. 29-30.

The eight regiments of infantry were divided into two brigades, one under the command of Brig. Gen. Charles Cruft of Terre Haute, and the other under command of Brig. Gen. Mahlon D. Manson.

The Indiana regiments had been in service only 10 to 20 days, with little time for drill because of so many changes of encampment and heavy guard duty. They were brave and patriotic men, armed and uniformed, but not trained and disciplined soldiers.

The disastrous results of the battle of Richmond are well known. Some 2,000 officers and men, including Gen. Manson, were captured and paroled. Nearly 1,000 men in the Indiana regiments were killed or wounded. Lt. Col. Topping of Terre Haute was killed. Nine pieces of artillery fell into enemy hands.

Gen. Manson stated that not more than 2,500 Union men were engaged at any one time. The enemy's forces, however, numbered 12,000 infantry, 4,000 cavalry and 16 pieces of artillery.

The disastrous battle of Richmond, regardless of its terrible loss of life, gained time to strongly defend Cincinnati, and decided Confederate General Smith to march instead on Frankfort which had been evacuated by Union troops.

War news was slow in coming back to the folks at home and the suspense between battles, the jubilation over victory, and the

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gloom following defeat were alternately experienced during the long war. On the night of Aug. 30, 1862, news was received from the battlefield at the Second Bull Run when the dispatches reported Union advantage, but the actual outcome of the battle was not known until later.

The citizens of Terre Haute were very excited. The courthouse bell was rung, and when a great crowd had assembled in the square, the war dispatches were read, the German brass band played patriotic airs and after much discussion of the news of the last few weeks, the people rejoiced in the army's progress.

Because communication was slow, the people had not yet heard that on the same day the Battle of Richmond, Ky., had been fought, resulting in the defeat and capture of the Seventy-First Regiment, which was made up of a large number of Vigo County men, and the sad news concerning Topping's death.

During the Civil War, Terre Haute usually celebrated each victory with huge bonfires. The downtown merchants dreaded these displays as not an empty box or barrel escaped the enthusiastic fire-builders. The fire hazard was so great that it was feared that good news from the battle fronts might result in the destruction by fire of the entire city of Terre Haute.

Notes From A Civil War Newspaper

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

3-16-58-7

Many years ago, there existed a charming custom which I wish would come back into fashion again. It was the custom of carefully preserving a copy of the daily newspaper issued on the day a child was born. Several years later, barring some unforeseen happening such as fire, flood or mice in the attic, this newspaper was taken from the bureau drawer, trunk or other family hiding place and given to the now adult birthday child.

From this newspaper, published on the day of his birth, he could readily see what kind of a world he had been born into, could marvel at the strides made in his hometown's progress, laugh at the changes in women's fashions and prices of household commodities.

Such a newspaper as I have described was presented to me by Miss Helen Schmitt, 423 North Twelfth street. Her uncle, Frank



Dorothy J. Clark

C. Schmitt, for 29 years a collector for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, was the original owner of this copy of the "Daily Wabash Express" printed in Terre Haute, on August 2, 1861, the year of his birth.

What better way is there to learn about what Terre Haute was like 97 years ago than to read this newspaper? It was published every morning, except Sunday, at Modessitt's Building, No. 65 Wabash street. There was also "The Weekly Express" published every Wednesday at \$1.50 per annum, in advance. The daily cost \$5 for one year, and was "deliverable to city subscribers at ten cents per week, single copies, 5 cents."

Charles Cruft, the proprietor, set out his rates for advertising. Legal advertisements cost fifty cents per square inch each insertion. For inserting notices "of all Orders, Societies or Association," a charge was made of eight lines for 25 cents. Death announcements were free, but when a funeral notice was attached, it cost one dollar. Candidates for public office were charged \$2 for each name in the daily.

Mail Schedules.

J. O. Jones, postmaster, announced the arrival and departure times of the mails at the local post office. These included: Eastern Daily, Western Daily, Southern Daily, Northern Daily, and once a week mails to and from Merom, Worthington, Bowling Green and Portland.

The Railroad Time Table listed seven trains in and out of town; the Terre Haute & Richmond; the Terre Haute, Alton & St. Louis; the Evansville & Crawfordsville, and the Rockville Extension.

M. S. Wasson, agent for the American Express Company, at the northeast corner of Fourth and Ohio, announced that there would soon be a reduction in the rates charged for letters sent via Pony Express. Formerly \$2 for letters weighing one-half ounce or under, plus another \$2 for every additional one-half ounce, the new rate was to be only \$1. From Terre Haute the letters and telegraphs

were forwarded to connect with the Pony Express at St. Joseph, Mo., and ten days later arrived in San Francisco, Calif.

The most interesting item in this 1861 newspaper concerned the Civil War. This notice appeared: "Wanted for the United States Army—Able-bodied men, between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five years. Pay from \$11.00 to \$21.00 per month, with rations and quarters, to commence at once. Two dollars will be paid to any citizen who shall procure and present to the Recruiting Officer an acceptable recruit." Interested persons were to apply for further

information at the rendezvous in Terre Haute on the west side of the square to Capt. Alfred L. Hough."

Recruiting Copy.

In the same column appeared another notice on the same subject: "Volunteers are wanted to form a company to fill up the ten new regiments just called for by the Governor." In addition to the usual inducements this announcement specified "terms of enlistment were for three years or the duration of the war, unless sooner discharged, and at the end of which the soldiers will receive a bounty of one hundred dollars in gold, and 160 acres of land." This recruiting office was located in Linton's block, corner of Market and Wabash. E. B. Allen, Auditor of Vigo County, and R. S. Cox, Jr., vouched for John S. Welch who would take command of this proposed company.

The war news was divided into "Telegraphic News," dispatched by the Western Union line, and "Night Dispatches." Local people were also privileged in reading some first-hand accounts of how the war was progressing. W. R. McKeen, W. H. Buckingham, J. H. Hager and W. B. Tuell, prominent local men of 1861, had recently visited "Washington, the Seat of War, and New York City," which qualified them as well-informed reporters. The fighting was centered at that time near Manassas, Bull's Run and Centerville, about 27 miles from Washington, D. C. This party of local men actually drove out from Washington in a horse and buggy to see the battle first-hand. This was quite the fashionable thing to do in those early days of the Civil War!

Returning to Washington, they became lost and were stopped by a sentry's musket. Having neither

a pass nor countersign, they were taken before the Provost Marshal, who referred their case to General Runyan, who gave them a pass.

Pay Social Call.

On the trip home to Terre Haute, the party "stopped off at Bristol, and spent a very pleasant day with our late fellow citizen, Lucius H. Scott, Esq., and his amiable lady. They have a delightful residence on the bank of the Delaware, and are looking younger than they did when they were in Terre Haute in 1854."

Other items of interest included a notice that "two or three miners were wanted to dig coal at the Farmersburg Mines." Farmers could purchase a "combination machine, a reaper and mower, for \$135 or 140 bushels of wheat."

This little newspaper of only four pages carried very little local news. Over half the space was filled with advertisements. Over half of those were for patent medicines, guaranteed to cure any and every malady known to man and beast!

I'm wondering how antiquated today's newspaper would seem if it were preserved for a 1958 birthday child and presented to him upon reaching adulthood. The big news story of launching a satellite into outer space will seem very "old-hat" to a citizen of the Twenty-first Century!

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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Civil War Days in Vigo County

6-1-58-7

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Opportunities to talk to someone who can actually remember Civil War times are becoming increasingly rare. It was with great interest that I approached just such an opportunity, when I was invited to the home of Mrs. Carl Wischmeyer, 203 Madison boulevard, to visit with her mother, Mrs. Otto Riehle, who will celebrate her ninety-eighth birthday this summer.

Mrs. Riehle, the former Florence Hull, was born in 1860 in Coshocton, Ohio. Her father, Joshua M. Hull, came out from Ohio to this county, met her mother, Mary Elizabeth Robertson, and took her back with him to Ohio. Mr. Hull was so impressed with Indiana that he decided to bring his little family back here to live. The story was told that it was necessary to change cars nine times on the train trip back from Ohio to Vigo County, showing the railroad difficulties of that period.

Mrs. Riehle has been asked many times to explain why she was born in Ohio when all her family for generations are buried in Mt. Pleasant cemetery. Her grandparents, Isaac Woolen and John Robertson, came here from Greensboro, North Carolina. They hated slavery and came north to get away from it.

She remembers so clearly a story her grandfather told her about the South. He told of seeing a gang of slaves being driven down the road past his plantation home by two overseers with black snake whips. The slaves, men, women and children, wore nothing but dirty white tow shirts.

Settle Near Mt. Pleasant.

The Woolen and Robertson families took up land about two miles beyond where Mount Pleasant Church is now located. John Robertson had his stock "mark" registered in 1818, and the next year was elected a petit juror. The first Vigo County atlas shows that the two families located fairly close together on the Riley Road, earlier called Lockport Road, then Mount Pleasant Road. They reared large families and as was the custom in those days, when a son married, they gave him a piece of land. Mrs. Riehle remembered that one grandfather had such a large family that after he had parceled the land out to his many children, he ended up with what is now Twenty-fifth and College—at that time a swamp! Grandfather Robertson evidently tired of wet land and typhoid fever, so he moved to Independence, Missouri, where he outfitted wagons for the Oregon Trail and other trails westward bound.

She first attended a one-room school, taught by Bell Stevenson, located on the road that runs south from the church. She graduated from the Terre Haute High School, class of 1879, when it was located in the old Normal School. Mr. Byers was the principal when she attended there, and to the best of her knowledge, none of her classmates are still living. Mrs. Riehle boarded with a Mrs. Crane and her daughter, who was a teacher. Miss Marietta Grover,

the botany teacher, was mentioned as "very special." All the girls lived her and congregated in her room at noontime. Twenty years later she was Mrs. Wischmeyer's teacher.

When Joshua M. Hull brought his family back to Indiana, he decided to establish a pottery, a business he had learned from his family's pottery in Ohio. Because of the good clay deposits, he almost located in Brazil, Ind. Undoubtedly his wife's parents had a great deal to do with changing his mind and causing him to settle near them in Vigo County. About two miles past the church on the Riley Road, on the opposite side of the road from the present Prox property, he built a two-story building and a large shed building with a sloping roof. In this

shed was placed the clay hauled from a nearby clay deposit. Tied to a crude turnstile arrangement, a horse was used to tramp the clay, walking endlessly around and around, until the clay was the proper consistency.

Father Was Pottery Maker.

From Ohio Mr. Hull had brought skilled potters who turned out jars, jugs, pitchers and crocks on their potter's wheels. People came from miles around to buy these needed items. Mrs. Riehle has two examples of this early pottery. One is a small bowl, dark greyish-brown in color, with a dull, fired-on glaze to make it waterproof. She remembers the kiln as being large, round, and located near the pottery shed. From the second-story of the pottery, a walk led to the kiln. To a small child, this was a favorite walk, even though a tumble was experienced occasionally.

This pottery building served another purpose during Civil War days. The top floor was used as an arsenal where guns and ammunition were stored. All the men in the surrounding area registered there and came regularly to drill. None of these men, served in the war, however, as there were plenty of substitutes available. Mrs. Riehle remembers that money, and sometimes ammunition, were hidden in a big barrel of white beans. Her grandfather wore his gold in a money belt.

White sugar was called "coffee" sugar in those days. It was coarser in texture than our modern white sugar. Powdered sugar was widely used, especially for baking. Her father insisted on having "real" coffee—no substitutes for him! Buying the very best green coffee beans, he roasted them in a large black pan, still in Mrs. Riehle's possession.

The first fruit jars for canning that she can remember were a beautiful yellow color, six-sided, with a groove around the top for the tin lid and the sealing wax.

Divided Sentiment.

Feeling ran high during the Civil War in Vigo County. She told the

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story of a strong Southern sympathizer in the neighborhood. It seems that in the churchyard one Sunday morning, a woman resented seeing a man wear a butternut pinned on his coat. She snatched off the offensive butternut and threw it on the ground. Angered in return, he grabbed off her leghorn poke bonnet and tore it in two! All this in the churchyard on a Sabbath morning!

Nearly all these former neighbors are gone now. The Harvey Jackson and the Robert Jackson families are gone; the Woolens are gone, and the Schwartz family has dwindled to only two grandsons. I was sternly reminded that these early Vigo County pioneers were the backbone of the county. They were the farming people who made it possible for the townspeople to prosper.

The Historical Museum, corner of Sixth and Washington streets, should have some examples of the early Hull pottery. Contact this writer if you should happen to have any of it.

Historically History, T.H. (Civil War) Speaking

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



TS MAR 27 1977

In previous columns, I've told of Camp Harrison, the Confederate prison established here in Terre Haute during Civil War days.

Much of the information about this rebel prison has come from Bro. Andrew Mullen, C.P.P.S., of St. Charles Seminary, Celina, Ohio.

His great-grandfather, Col. Bernard J. Mullen, was commandant of the rebel prison from Feb. 24 to March 18, 1862, which explains his interest, and while working in the Indiana State Library Archives recently, he came across more letters and documents pertaining to this bit of local history.

As a member of the Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable, and the Ohio Commandery of Military Order of Loyal Legion of U.S., Bro. Andrew realized how valuable this information is for this area and sent copies for future use in the Vigo County Historical Society's files.

Col. Mullen is not mentioned in the letters, but the Irish officers of his 61st Indiana Regiment are mentioned in Mrs. R. W. Thompson's letter of Feb. 8, 1862, to Gov. Morton.

Col. Mullen's regiment guarded the prisoners here before being ordered to Camp Morton at Indianapolis. On May 22nd, they were consolidated into the 35th Indiana Regiment.

LOCAL LETTER

On the letterhead of the Terre Haute & Richmond Railroad Company, Secretary's Office, dated Feb. 24, 1862, Charles Wood wrote to either Gov. Morton or Gen. Laz Noble, Adjutant General's Headquarters at Indianapolis, in which he stated:

"Dear Sir: The prisoners not yet arrived as of 7 a.m. are expected this afternoon. Farrington & Williams are making every preparation to make

them comfortable. If arrangements are to be made for keeping them for sometime, these Gentlemen are fully prepared to subsist them."

"At the present, they are providing Army rations for them. Would it not be as well to send some one over to see what preparations are made? If any are sick, shall I provide medical attention? I suppose you will have a Guard provided. In haste. (signed) Chas. Wood."

IRISH TROUBLE

Four days later, R. W. Thompson sent a letter to Gov. Morton in which he stated, "It has occurred to me that the order published in reference to

the prisoners here—to the effect that no civilian is permitted to visit them—is unwise, especially in view of the fact that it is important that the mistaken impression they have in reference to our people should be removed as far as possible, so that upon their return home they will represent us to be what we really are."

"This can only be done by proper intercourse with our intelligent citizens who would visit them not from idle curiosity merely, but with a view to administer, as far as possible, to their comfort, and at the same time to improve their mind with the fact that they had no prejudice against the South."

R. W. Thompson was disturbed by the fact that the rebel prisoners "hold intercourse only with the Irish officers and soldiers, some of the former of whom are not members of the Temperance Society! And if they see no others while here, they will, when they return home, confirm amongst their neighbors the impression they already have that the Northern are inferior to the brethren..."

1 PORK PACKER

Looking out for his own business interests, local pork packer James Farrington, a partner in the firm of Farrington & Williams, who owned the building in which the federal government had established the rebel prison, wrote to Gov. Morton on March 17, 1862.

He suggested that "in view of the expenses incurred by the Government in providing comfortable quarters for keeping the prisoners of war at this place and at abandonment of the same by those now here, under the recent order to that effect, I beg to suggest whether it not be expedient to let the fixtures as they now are remain for a time, to be occupied in case a further allotment of prisoners should be made to this State, as such as may be captured as the War progresses."

"The eligibility of the location, as to health, accommodations and expenses to be incurred will favorably compare with any other point."

"A small number of native American soldiers for a guard would surround them with favorable influence and insure their safekeeping."

The letters and documents received from Bro. Andrew will be continued in next week's column. Camp Harrison, the short-lived prison set up to han-

dle Confederate prisoners of war was located on First Street in the old abandoned pork-packing plant and warehouse belonging to Farrington & Williams. In recent years the old stone block piers could still be seen buried in the ground at that location.

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Historically Community Affairs File Speaking

TS APR 3 1977
By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Last week's column told of the letters and documents received from Bro. Andrew Mullen concerning the rebel prison in Terre Haute established in 1862 and commanded for a time by his great-grandfather, Col. Bernard J. Mullen, of the 61st Indiana Regiment which was consolidated later into the 35th Indiana.

The prison, known as Camp Harrison, was located on South First Street in the old abandoned pork-packing plant and warehouse belonging to Farrington & Williams.

One of the letters concerning the prison was written March 20, 1862, by F. M. Misedith to Gov. Morton and contained his observations of the prison. He stated, "The manner in which the prisoners, who are still here are controlled, is becoming a subject of some trouble. There is much excitement in regard to the matter and unless some new disposition is made soon (underlined), I fear a serious disturbance may be the result."

"One of the Physicians in attendance upon those of them who are sick is an Avowed Secessionist; and I am informed is giving them all the encouragement in his power. Also the sheriff informs us that in one instance and perhaps more the sick prisoners have been passed out and are now in the families of disguised secessionists. There is amongst our citizens much dissatisfaction and unless matters change a disturbance of the peace may take place. I would suggest a new guard, that would exclude the Secessionists or sympathizers."

Sick Bay Report

On March 24, 1862, Adjutant General Laz Noble received a letter from Dr. W. C. Rust, M.D., concerning the rebel prison. He reported, "I have

succeeded in getting some degree of order introduced into the Hospital here, but owing to the impossibility of changing the building thoroughly I am far from satisfied with it. The men are now comfortable, and feel it, and the chances of such as are sick must be improved."

"One of the prisoners died a few moments after you left, another the same night, and a third last night. There are still five exceedingly critical cases, but the balance are doing well... You requested me to give names of some of the guards of whom I was speaking as being unfit for service. They are James Shields, Edward Fields,

both epileptic; Pat McGavery, with varicose veins, and Mulligan, with a hernia."

According to Mrs. R. W. Thompson, in her letter to General Noble dated April 15, 1862, "one of the rebel prisoners, William Gill, who has been ill for a long time has become exceedingly anxious to be removed from the hospital, farcrying that he will not recover while there and I have today consented to have him brought to our house after consulting with Mr. Conn."

"Dr. Rust has been sent to Pittsburgh Landing. Mr. Gill is greatly dissatisfied with the present physicians in attendance. He thinks if his first physician, Dr. Helms, could be permitted to attend him he could recover."

"I believe Dr. Rink has no hopes whatsoever for his recovery, and I disposed, with your approbation, to gratify what will probably be his last request. I do not know that Dr. Helms would, under the existing circumstances, visit him, but I think if I requested it and you consented he would do so. The remaining two patients will probably be enabled to leave the hospital bay soon..."

Postscript.

In a postscript to his wife's letter, R.W. Thompson asked General Noble to "be kind enough to write in your reply whether any other than well loyal persons would risk the patient... this may relieve me from some embarrassment and he expressed that nothing should be done while he is in my house that should in the slightest degree prejudice the cause of the Union."

Parole

Also included in the information received from Bro. Andrew was a copy of the parole of Corporale Willis Brown, Company C, 9th Battalion Tennessee Cavalry, dated March 22, 1862, and approved by Adj. Genl. Laz Noble.

It stated that "I give my parole of honor that I will not depart from the premises; (viz: building and grounds now occupied by Bayless W. Hanna in Terre Haute wherein I am now confined) until my health shall be sufficiently recovered to enable me to join my company in Camp Morton near Indianapolis and that I will when sufficiently recovered report to the Commandant of Camp Morton and render myself as prisoner."

The document went on to state that Brown would not "hold converse with any person pending this parole on the subject of the present rebellion in the so-called confederate states or political agitating in connection therewith."

The two local homes mentioned in these documents as having housed the ailing rebel prisoners were the R.W. Thompson home on "west side of Sixth Street, south of Seminary," and the Bayless W. Hanna home on the "north side of Ohio between Fifth and Sixth." These were the descriptions in the city directory for that year.

Both men were local attorneys — Thompson with Jenckes, and Hanna with Voorhees. Their wives were civic-minded ladies with time to devote to the ailing and under-privileged.

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The history of infantry interesting reading

Community Affairs File

History, Ill. also Clark, Dorothy



Lyal W. Southcott, a TRIBUNE printer and ardent book collector, loaned me his copy of the history of the 125th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, written by Robert M. Rogers, a former sergeant of Company B who was living in Newell, Ill., when the volume was published in 1882 by the Gazette Steam Press in Champaign, Ill.

The book contains a record of the marches, battles and bivouacs, and complete roster of the 125th, showing what became of every man who was mustered for three years in September, 1862, whether he died in battle, was taken prisoner, transferred to other organizations or mustered out at Chicago when only 343 of the original 1,000 survived.

If the man was buried in a government cemetery, the number of his grave is given.

Recruited from the counties of Champaign and Vermillion, the 125th was made up from three companies from Champaign, seven companies from Vermillion, averaging 90 men each, a total of 900 men rank and file.

The companies met at Danville, county seat of Vermillion County, and went into camp on the old fairgrounds, using the sheds and booths put up for the exhibition of cattle, sheep, etc., but the men were mostly farmers, used to outdoor life, and did not mind.

Oscar F. Harmon, young lawyer at Danville, became commander of the regiment.

Other officers were Lt. Col. J.W. Langley, Major John B. Lee, Adjutant William Mann, Surgeon John J. McElroy, Assistant Surgeon C.H. Mills, Chaplain Levi Sanders and Quartermaster A.M. Ayres.

Camp life included guard duty and drilling while the recruits were completely outfitted with everything except tents.

The "Austrian Rifle" issued was described as a "very poor arm... some not entirely drilled out, some with springs that would not snap a cap, nor on which a bayonet could be fastened without hammering."

The men believed that only the butt of the rifle would be useful if they met the enemy.

A private soldier received \$13 per month, and the men were paid before they left on cattle cars for Cincinnati via Lafayette.

They bade farewell to wives, children, parents and sweethearts.

Only one man showed the "white feather" at the last moment and was left lying on the floor of the fair building apparently "so sick he did not know what to do."

No sympathy was shown by the rest of the regiment as they marched off to war.

Issued overcoats at Danville, the men suffered from the heat by the time they had marched from Cincinnati to Covington, Ky., over a pontoon bridge.

They camped in cornstalk shelters on the hilltop, and water was carried up the hill to the camp from the Ohio River.

From here they went down river on a steamboat to Louisville with the 85th and 86th Illinois and the 52nd Ohio making up a Brigade through the war with Col. Daniel McCook, Ohio veteran of Shiloh, in command.

Up to this point there was no sickness which was just as well.

The medical exam had only required each man to step forward and show his teeth.

Quinine was given as the cure for anything and everything.

On Sept. 30 the 125th began the march south across Kentucky, the neutral State.

They engaged in their first battle at Perrysville on Oct. 8, 1862, and the rebels retreated.

The men learned that the order to "pile knapsacks" meant that a battle was imminent.

Reading the book is similar to a travel story, and it became necessary to have a map handy to keep track of the daily marchings and encampments across Kentucky, through Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., for the grand review, and back to Chicago for mustering out and home.

The author believed that the mule and the dog tent were the two great levers in putting down the Rebellion.

The Illinois men took part in the battles of Stone River, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and the bloody day at Kennesaw where the loss of life was tremendous, before the victorious march on to Atlanta.

Gen. Sherman turned Atlanta into a grand military post shipping the civilians out via rail.

Here the men were reclothed and equipped.

On Nov. 12, 1864, Sherman cut communications with the north, and four days later left Atlanta on the famous march to the sea.

All troops were provided with good wagon trains loaded with ammunition and supplies, approximately 20 days of bread, 40 days of sugar and coffee, double allowance of salt for 40 days and beef cattle.

The wagons also carried three days forage in grain.

The men "lived on the country" on corn, sweet potatoes and fresh meat.

Those who have seen the movie "Gone With the Wind" remember the sight of Atlanta being blown up and burned before the arrival of Union troops, 200 acres in ruin and flames, with nothing remaining but churches and dwelling houses.

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They captured Savannah and stayed there a month refitting and repairing.

Christmas passed without Santa Claus or Christmas trees.

On Jan. 19, 1865, they marched from Savannah to Washington, D.C., living off the land through South Carolina.

Two men from each company with one commissioned officer would strike off into the countryside an hour before the army moved each day gathering up all provisions they could find.

Towards evening they would catch up with the marching men with their spoils.

A swath of stripped and pillaged land 60 miles wide was cut through by this march.

After skirmishing and the battle of Averysboro, N.C., and Bentonville, they received the news of Lee's surrender at Appomattox when they reached Smithville.

News of Lincoln's assassination came April 17, and following the trip to Chicago, they were mustered out and received their final pay on June 30, 1865.

One of the tales told most often at reunions concerned the men who were printers by trade.

In Rome, Ga., these men got into the printing office and issued a newspaper filled with editorials exhorting the editor and owner of the property to come back to the union and give up the cause of secession.

The men of the 125th who lived to tell about it had three long years to remember.

Sutton (H)
Taking an historic look
at early Indiana regiment

History (T.H.) Community Affairs File
Civil War Ts FEB 19 1978



The Forty-Sixth Indiana Regiment in the Civil War was made up of recruits from Terre Haute.

Waldo Williams, a member of Company C of that regiment, kept concise records of the deeds of the 46th while he served with the headquarters staff.

Early service of the regiment played a prominent role in the firing line along the Mississippi River. The 46th got its chance through a clash between colonels which drew General Sherman into the maneuvers.

On Feb. 14, 1862, Colonel Hazen's brigade of General Nelson's division of the Army of the Mississippi left Camp Wycliffe, Kentucky, about 7 a.m. The 41st Ohio was leading with Colonel Graham A. Fitchie following with the 46th Indiana.

It was muddy underfoot and cloudy and murky overhead. Each private carried on his back 65 pounds of baggage, with a 14-pound Belgium musket and accouterments.

The word was passed through the ranks that the 41st Ohio intended to wind the Hoosiers.

About noon Williams saw the captain of Company A, 41st, grasp his sword by the hilt and vow, "You Hoosiers may have passed through the other regiments but you shall not pass through this company."

He was referring to the fact that the Indiana men had been walking for two hours through sprawling soldiers worn out from the march who straggled and rested every few minutes.

Gen. Nelson and his aides rode up, and some more excellent cursing was heard, but he was convinced.

Halting the columns, the regiments were reformed with the hard-marching Hoosiers out in front.

The columns bivouacked at the north side of the Elizabethtown pike, and on Feb. 15 went into camp at Elizabethtown, showing how fast the Terre Hauteans marched.

Overriding Gen. Nelson's orders, fence rails were appropriated with hay from nearby farms.

Eating a coarse supper, the men prepared to sleep in the open in fairly warm temperature.

When the bugle called in the morning, a blanket of 10 inches of snow covered the line of sleepers. The men were too tired to be awakened by the snow fall. Steaming air holes alone told of their presence under the snow.

Another day of marching followed, and the soldiers again raided a snake fence for fuel when they went into camp.

Williams was near Col. Fitchie when Gen. Nelson rode up, swearing.

"Colonel, you have had strict orders to refrain from the use of fence rails for fire wood," thundered Nelson.

"Yes," shot back Fitchie, "but kindly observe that monument of rails entering the camp of Col. Hazen, my ranking Colonel's regiment."

"That's no excuse for you or your Hoosiers. I have a notion to demand your sword for permitting disobedience of my orders," growled Nelson.

Williams reported the ominous sound of musket hammers clicking back as the angry men heard the threat.

Nelson and Fitchie heard, and the Hoosiers' Colonel was bold.

"Stop the others and we will stop; otherwise, not."

"Damn you Hoosiers, if I can form a division of such unafraid men I can cut a swath through the entire southern army. You fellows won't scare," Nelson said over his shoulder as he rode away.

On Feb. 18, Nelson's division was loaded on a flotilla of river steamers, which ultimately led to Nelson losing direct command of the regiment.

The "Izetta" was forced to anchor at Cairo, Ill., when struck by a fierce tornado and narrowly escaped being sunk in the river.

It reached Commerce on Feb. 23.

On March 1 the 46th "started on the hunt for actual trouble, chasing Jeff Thompson over Missouri. Gunboat cannonading could

be heard on the river when the Terre Hauteans moved out into the country, through rain-filled, murky weather, and mud-flooded roads."

Start and halt, start and halt, for days the regiment wallowed along, hampered by trees Jefferson's men accommodately cut and felled across the roads. Nine thousand men under terrific storms, lightning striking the cannon carriages and killing in one instance.

New Madrid was the goal, and the troops carried plenty of good old Missouri mud for miles to approach the city. Jefferson was only two miles ahead of the army when it went into camp, 13 miles from New Madrid.

General Pope was in charge of the army of mud walkers who had dragged three old 24-pound smooth-bore Mexican cannons along. The chase continued into the night of March 3 when the army went into camp under an ominous quiet, predicting the coming battle.

When morning came, the Yankees saw for the first time the "T" rail armored gunboats, run up the river by the confederates, which later proved a serious menace to the 46th.

With a terrific fire, the brief fight opened and landing confederates were repulsed. Thompson's troops on shore were too far away to help.

Fortune favored the 46th and they won the first skirmish, pushing the Johnnies back to a retreat on land.

Orders came to hold the position where the 46th occupied a huge barn near New Madrid.

Williams and two of his friends persuaded the women in a nearby farmhouse to cook for them, so their stay was made more pleasant.

March 13 saw a march to the river and the firing line where the men were deployed in ditch pits to escape the shelling from the river gunboats. The shells thudded and exploded in the earth banks in front and behind them, smoke filled the air to strangulation, while the iron-clad confederate flotilla flitted forward and backward on the river.

The lucky ones in the 46th survived the river bank fighting and fought on to the end of the Civil War.

Sherman was right

Ribbioned letters tell stories of war, death,

A little bundle of time-worn Civil War letters and other family correspondence carefully tied with a narrow red ribbon by their late owner, Grandmother Higgins, were loaned to me by her grandson, Francis M. Lowe, RR 11, West Terre Haute.

The earliest was dated Nov. 6, 1862, and was written by Clark Higgins to his father, Absalom Higgins, from Camp Morton, Indianapolis. Written in the usual style of that day, the gist of the letter was that he was well, that "Uncle Sam has a job for me this winter and he tells me I must shoulder arms and order arms and right shoulder shift arms, etc." He reported that "we have plenty of pork and beans and baker's bread."

The next letter was dated Nov. 16, and told his father he had drawn \$35 and wished his father could come and get it before it was stolen. There was good preaching in the camp, and postage stamps were very high. Letters were to be directed to him in care of Capt. Smith, 16th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, Company I.

In the Nov. 21 letter, he told his parents, Absalom and Cinthy Higgins,

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

that the scuttlebutt was that the men would "march away from this place (Camp Morton) in a day or two."

On Dec. 6, Clark Higgins was in Memphis, Tenn. It took three days to reach Memphis from Indianapolis, and they went in camp one mile from the town, then moving below the town two miles on a former battle ground.

To prove he still had a sense of humor, he joked about the lice. "When we came down on the boat, we got some of the animals I call greybacks. Some is very small, some is very large, and they bite like the devil. I scratch on one side and then on the other. Some has teeth like hogs; some of them is so old they have lost their front teeth.

"I think some of the greybacks have been in the Secesh Army," he

said, "they are well drilled. Some of them has on uniforms to drill in."

According to Higgins, "we have nine kinds of lice and the seven year's itch, so you may have some idea of our times in camp. We live on fat meat and crackers and coffee and I expect that we will have to live on worse before we git home if we live to git home."

Shortly after this letter, a fellow soldier had the sad duty to inform the mother of Clark Higgins of his death. John T. White wrote, "when we started to the battle field on the morning of Jan. 11, I saw Clark before I left and he looked very bad in the face and I spoke to him and I asked him if he was sick. He said that he was very sick, and I asked him if he was going with us, and he said if the



officer would let him stay on the boat he would not go to the fight... when we came back I was told that he was dead and I could not believe it until I was called upon to help bury him..."

White continued, "I done my duty in his behalf, and we went to the boat and got his remains. We done the best we could. We made a coffin out of boards and it was very nice when we got it done. We put him in it with clean clothes on and he was very natural. Then we closed the lid and four of us carried him to his grave. His grave was dug in a dry place by the side of the bay at Napolen" ... and here the letter became illegible.

One of the longest letters on the colorful military letterhead paper which was folded to form the envelope, was written by a soldier to Mr. Higgins from a camp at the back of Vicksburg, Miss., on July 8, 1863. It told of the marching and the six battles the soldier had fought in — Grand Gulf, Magnolia Hills, Port Gibson, Raymond, the battle near Jackson, Miss., Champion Hills, Big Black river bridge and "a big battle it was, but we gained the battle and took the breastworks and 4,000 pris-

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Community Affairs File

oners and all their artillery they had in the fort. The dead lay thick on both sides of the field."

The letter went on to say, "then it took us three days to drive them into forts at Vicksburg, at last we drove them in and on the second day we charged their forts, but we were repulsed and lost 1,500 men in all killed and wounded and taken prisoner and dead lay on the field for four days and nights." We sent in a flag of truce and the South sent one, but neither one could bend until the hot sun brought on a drastic situation.

The letter-writer told how "there was one man that I shall never forget. He lay on the battlefield all that time without water or anything to eat with his leg broken by a cannon ball. When we found him he was still alive but could not speak a word. His leg had swelled so that it had burst his pants and was fly-blown. We sent him to the hospital. . . . It was impossible to handle the rest of them. We had to dig trenches and shove them in. It was impossible to handle them for the meat would fall from their bones and they were covered with fly blows."

The letter writer went on to say, "I

wish this cruel war was over and my lonely soul at home with those I love." Man's inhumanity to man was never more apparent than in many of the Civil War battles.

A detailed account of the siege at Vicksburg was included in the letter. It must have been of great interest to Mr. Higgins to learn what his son, Clark, had not lived to endure. The life of a private soldier was a nightmare with rough days of marching, hard physical labor, the many battles and skirmishes, and the adverse living conditions in the entrenchments outside Vicksburg waiting for the Rebels to surrender that hot July, 1863.

Historically speaking

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12-26-82

Clark, Dorothy
+ KKK (Ind)

Community Affairs File

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'Kuklos' formed during 1865 holidays

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

A social society that was to have a lasting effect on race relations in the United States was innocently conceived by a group of bored Civil War veterans during the Christmas holidays of 1865.

The secret fraternity called the "Kuklos" was created in a law office in Pulaski, Tenn. To this Greek word for circle, someone added the word "clan" because of the predominantly Scotch-Irish heritage of the area's residents.

This small group evolved into the powerful Ku Klux Klan, and the white-robed night riders spread their reign of terror over all the black people and their sympathizers in the South. The movement spread gradually into the North.

Although blacks were the most despised minority in the eyes of the K.K.K., the growing hate list soon included the Irish and all those of European immigrants to this country. The Klan used the illiteracy and superstition of these people to terrorize and manipulate them.

Next to Virginia, Tennessee was the chief battleground of the Civil War. In 1866, Tennessee was the first of the seceding states to return to the Union, but much bitterness remained. Recovery from the war was slow. The 50 years following the war were spent in restoring the fertility of farms, rebuilding wrecked railroads and roads, and repaying the state's war debt.

During the 10 years following the Civil War was the Reconstruction

Period. President Lincoln died before his lenient plans to pardon the Southerners and allow them to reestablish their own state governments could be put into effect. His successor, Andrew Johnson, was unable to carry out his plans, and in 1867 Congress passed the Reconstruction Act.

The South was divided into five military districts, each with a general and full force of troops. The 14th Amendment was finally adopted in 1868.

Those most experienced in state government were ineligible for office because they had taken up arms against the Union. However, all black people were eligible even though they had not the slightest idea of how to govern a state. Also, they were usually controlled by the "carpet baggers," adventurers from the North and West.

For these reasons, the governments were inefficient, taxes were enormous, little work was done to rebuild, and corruption was rampant.

Because of this period of great difficulty in the South, the K.K.K. used force against the blacks and carpetbaggers. There was blame on both sides for the tragic disturbances that followed.

Eventually, the 15th Amendment was adopted in 1870 guaranteeing the right of citizens of the United States to vote regardless of race or color.

Under the Amnesty Act of 1872, almost everyone who had taken

part in the war was pardoned, and old political leaders were able to take office again. By 1878, President Hayes had recalled the last soldiers from the South, and the carpetbagger governments supported by federal soldiers' bayonets came to an end.

The K.K.K. as a secret society in the South after the War Between the States was formed to frighten the blacks and keep them from voting. Their chief objective was white supremacy. Following the overthrow of the black governments of the Reconstruction periods, all sorts of educational tests were used to prevent the blacks from voting. For decades the poll tax was a favorite means of discouraging both blacks and poor whites from voting.

The Roaring Twenties or the Jazz Age during President Harding's term of office was best remembered for Prohibition and the 18th Amendment. Also in this period, the K.K.K. was revived in 1915, only to have its members decline within a few years after Harding's death. During this phase, the K.K.K. opposed blacks, Catholics, Jews and all foreigners.

The Klan flourished across the country after World War I, and the symbols of the flaming cross and hooded white robes were seen in many communities.

During the Twenties and early Depression Years, the Klan flourished in Terre Haute because of the huge influx of foreign workers to the coal mines and factories here. Men were afraid for their jobs when

cheaper or "scab" labor was increasingly available to the employer. Coal miners were in the forefront in such labor problems, and their frequent strikes had K.K.K. overtones.

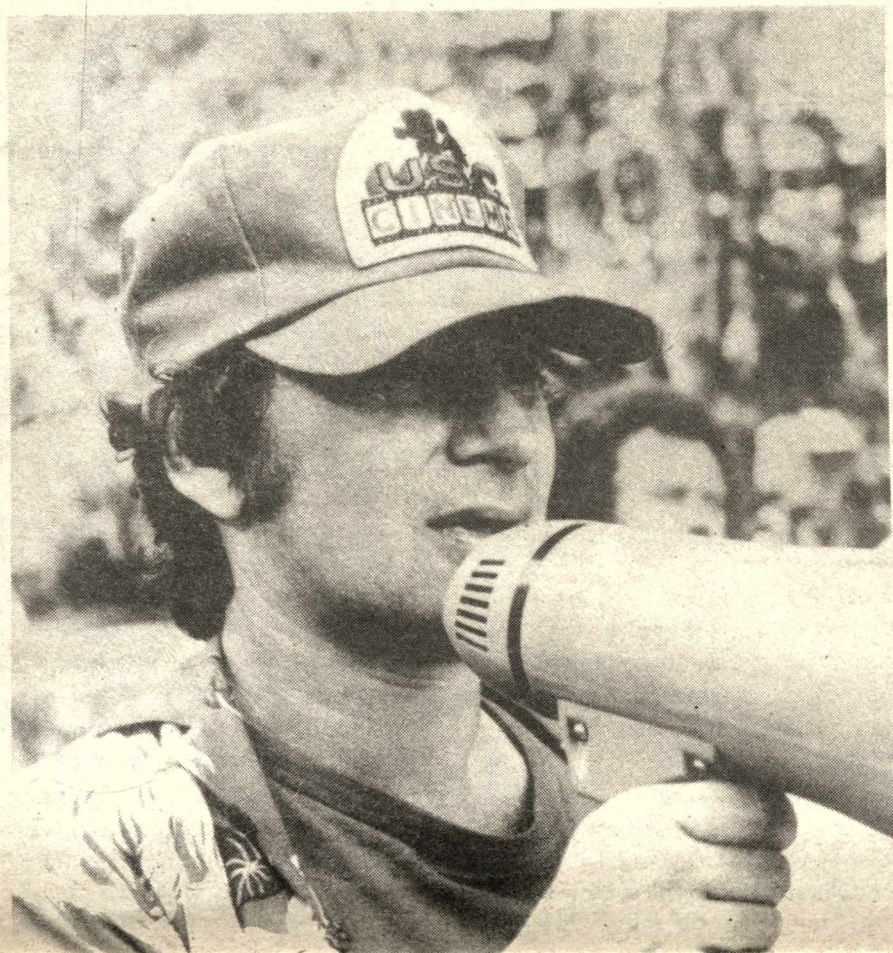
The local Klan organization had such a large membership that a permanent headquarters building was planned, and donations were solicited for a building in the city. Rallies were held in several locations, but best known were those held in the building near 13th and Sixth Avenue. Entertainment of all kinds was offered to attract crowds, and between the acts, hawkers would sell boxes of Cracker-jack up and down the aisles as they did at burlesque houses.

Another favorite money-making scheme was selling chances on an automobile. Here the Klan sympathizer could gamble a little, possibly win a new Model T, and at the same time make a contribution he could afford to the local building fund. Needless to say, the headquarters never came into existence, and what became of the funds is anyone's guess.

The K.K.K. was revived again after World War II, but never gained much of a foothold this far North. Only in some of the southern states does it still burn its crosses and wear the white bedsheets of bigotry and violence. Little did the Tennessean vets realize what their boredom spawned in that law office 117 years ago.

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie



Steven Spielberg

Q. *I would like to know if Patrice Donnelly has considered doing another film after "Personal Best"? I know it was her first film and I think she did a great job. Sharon Mathis, Decatur, Ill.*

A. The word is that she's been considering for quite a while but also hasn't come to any decision. "She's been holed up in California trying to get some things going," explains a friend. "She really hasn't seen anything that she's dying to do so she's trying to get a few projects off the ground herself. But we're not holding our breath. She's really in no hurry."

That's too bad because she did receive almost unanimous raves — the only element of the film, in fact, that was praised.

A LITTLE INSIGHT INTO FOREIGN FILMMAKING

and why it sometimes looks so foreign, even to the actors themselves who have gone through it. First up, Marthe Keller, who starred in PBS's recent "The Charterhouse of Parma" in which everyone seemed to be speaking toward Jupiter or beyond: "Nobody in Italy works from a script," she says. "It's all dubbed later. So you smile, talk about whatever first comes into your mind — a shopping list, counting to 10. It makes no sense. And to make it worse, while we were working, the set was absolute chaos — dogs were barking, a TV set was blasting, horns were honking, children were screaming and they were breaking down a wall nearby. And this while



Q. *I am a fan of Steven Spielberg and I would like to know how tall he is, where he was born, and where I could write to him. Marina L. Overen, Quincy, Wash.*

A. Spielberg is 5'8", was born in Cincinnati and raised primarily in Scottsdale, Arizona, where his childhood was not unlike those of the young stars of his films "Close Encounters," "E.T." and "Poltergeist": lonely, isolated, self-contained.

He was, he admits, the skinny kid picked last for sports teams and the one most often bullied. As an escape, he started making films at the age of 12, and, by his college years (he was a general English major at California State College at Long Beach), had produced 15 eight-millimeter epics, an example being a sci-fi fantasy called "Firelight."

Perhaps the most bizarre aspect of his childhood was his direct relationship with the new technology. As he explains it, "One day when I was a kid, my father brought home a transistor and said, 'Son, this is the future.' I remember taking it and swallowing it. I ate the transistor! My father didn't understand why, but I just believe something was in there that I had to know about."

He also claims to have carefully watched the "snow" on TV sets, convinced that some life form would spring forth from the lines (the little girl in "Poltergeist" watched TV pretty carefully, too) and says he picked up a radio show called "Beulah" on the fillings in his teeth. You can discuss these or other matters with Mr. Spielberg by writing him c/o Ira Friedman, 16 West 61st Street, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: Josie, SUNDAY WOMAN magazine, 235 E. 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Sorry, we can't answer any letters individually.

Q. *I really like the actress Cathy Moriarty from "Raging Bull" and "Neighbors." What movie will she be in next? Is she still married, and where can I write to her? Connie Fote, East Boston, Mass.*

A. Cathy, whose movie debut in "Raging Bull" at the tender age of 18 started her at the top — winning her an Academy Award nomination — has been incredibly picky about how to follow that act. She isn't scheduled to appear in anything in the near future. "You have to be selective," she says. "It's so easy to be stereotyped. I don't want to be classified as a type. I want to show that I can play many characters. But right now, I'm waiting for something I really want to do."

That shouldn't take too long, since she just signed with super-agent Sue Mengers, which is also the address to which mail should be sent: c/o Sue Mengers, International Creative Management, 8899 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90048.

As for her marriage, yes, she is still married to Carmine Dana, a former security guard and now her manager. They spend a lot of time on the beach in California, thinking about her career.



T: SEP 11 1983

Doctors served in Civil War

By Dorothy J. Clark

Historically speaking

It was the custom of The Gazette to publish a special Christmas edition with sketches and pen and ink portraits of the principal ministers, attorneys and other professional men prominent in Terre Haute. One year it was time to feature the physicians, and they were asked to furnish biographical information. Some did, some didn't, and some were very brief while others wrote page after page of their accomplishments.

Pioneer physician, Dr. Stephen J. Young, was asked to give his personal recollections of his fellow doctors since his arrival in Terre Haute in 1846. He declined due to his memory "which proverbially grows treacherous in the flight of time."

In the 1870s Dr. Ezra Read delivered an address before the Indiana State Medical Society. He was a native of Ohio, a graduate of the University of Athens, and had studied medicine with his brother, Dr. E. W. H. Read, and finished his course at the Medical College of Ohio in 1834.

Dr. Read began his practice in Cincinnati, then accepted service in Texas in 1836, where he was made surgeon general of the Texan forces by Commanding General Samuel Houston. In 1840 he left that service and located in Paris, Ill., as an associate of Dr. John Tenbrook. In 1842 he became the partner of Dr. Daniels and located in Terre Haute.

Dr. Read was described as "nearly six feet in height, rather full habit, light complexioned with blue eyes. He was a fine conversationalist, a fluent speaker, and a ready and finished writer.

Dr. Read took an active part in the Civil War as surgeon of the 21st Regiment Indiana Volunteers and the 11th Indiana Cavalry for nearly three years. He died May 10, 1877, aged 67 years.

When Dr. Read came to Terre Haute the physicians already here were Dr. Ebenezer Daniels, Dr. Septer Patrick, Dr. Edward V. Ball and Dr. Azel Holmes. Two young men, Dr. Irish and Dr. Brooks left town and located elsewhere, and Dr. John W. Hitchcock had left for another location after being here for a few years.

Dr. Daniels was a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. He was described as ambitious, industrious and jealous of his rights. He was judged an excellent surgeon and diagnostician. He died of pneumonia in 1847, aged about 56 years.

Dr. Patrick was a kind-hearted, blunt, honest physician, originally from New York. He had practiced medicine on the Wabash here until his head whitened. He was described as always poor, always industrious and faithful to the sick, and had attended one course of lectures in New York. He traveled to California during the gold rush, was disappointed, and died there in 1873, aged 73 years.

Dr. Ball, a native of New York, was another excellent doctor and highly esteemed citizen who enjoyed a large practice for more than 40 years. He died at the age of 73 in 1873.

Dr. Azel Holmes was born in 1804 in Herkimer Co., N.Y. He studied medicine with the celebrated Dr. Massey, and graduated in medicine in one of the New England schools. He also enjoyed a large practice here, but went to California in 1850 with his brother-in-law, Joseph O. Jones, former Terre Haute postmaster, and died in Sacramento later that year.

Dr. Charles B. Modesitt was one of the earliest, if not the first physician who settled on Fort Har-

rison Prairie before Terre Haute was platted. He was born in 1784 in Prince William County, Va., and graduated at Prince William College in 1808; moved to Ohio, near Cincinnati, in 1814, and to Fort Harrison in 1816.

Modesitt attended the first sale of lots in Terre Haute that year, and shortly afterwards built one of the first log houses in the new town, and commenced the practice of medicine. He died in January, 1848, aged 64 years. He was described as a courtly, dignified Virginia gentleman, who treated all people with polite courtesy.

Dr. William Clark, a military surgeon at Fort Harrison, practiced medicine among the early settlers for a few years and moved somewhere near Eugene, on the Wabash River, in 1824.

Dr. Aspinwall, also from the state of New York, settled here in 1817 and died in 1824.

Dr. Hotchkiss, from Connecticut, came here in 1822, and died in 1830. Dr. Turner, from the same state, came in 1822 and died in 1832.

Dr. G. W. Clippinger was born in 1822 in Shippensburg, Pa. He was a graduate of an eastern school in 1848 and came to Terre Haute to form a partnership with Dr. Septer Patrick. Early in 1861 he served as surgeon of the 14th Indiana Infantry Volunteers, but when his health failed, he returned home and took up residence in 1863 in Indianapolis until his death in 1870. He was described as very tall, slightly stoop-shouldered, light curly hair and complexion, with gray eyes.

Dr. John Evans was a native of Vigo County, living on his father's farm on Otter Creek Prairie. He was a student of Dr. Clippinger, taking lecture courses at the Medical College of Ohio in the winter of 1849-50 and taking a degree of medicine from New York College the following winter.

He was described as tall and angular, with black curly hair and blue eyes. He was stricken with typhoid fever and died almost before his career began.

Dr. J. H. Long was a native of Ohio and a student of Dr. Hittich of Bucyrus, Ohio. He graduated from Jefferson Medical College and came to Terre Haute in 1846. Described as "scrupulously neat and gentlemanly," he was above medium height and spare in form with dark hair and eyes and a very pale face.

No physician in this locality was so uniformly dressed in keeping with his profession. He was quick and nervous and prompt in the attention to duties. He acquired an enormous practice here until his death on Sept. 26, 1880.

Tragic Civil War incident recalled

Clark, Dorothy
History (7.4)
T s NOV 1 1 1984

After the turn of the century, Harper's Monthly ran a feature story of one of the most tragic and mysterious happenings of the Civil War. The article revived memories of one of Terre Haute's most honored citizens, soldier and jurist, Col. John P. Baird.

Baird was a graduate of the law school of the State University at Bloomington, Ind., and after a brilliant career of 10 years was commissioned colonel of the Eighty-Fifth Indiana regiment and served creditably for two years.

His two months confinement in the Libbey Prison together with the lasting impression made on his young mind by the court martial trial of the two spies, Lt. Walter G. Peter and Col. W. O. Williams, under his command, caused his health to fail. He was compelled to return to Terre Haute where he resumed his legal practice.

In 1876 his constitution again broke down, and the following year an impairment of the mind was noticeable. He consented to be taken to the Indiana Hospital for the Insane where he died after five years confinement. There was no doubt that the awful circumstances of this execution affected Col. Baird's mind, bringing on the attack of insanity.

It all began June 8, 1863, a hot evening at Fort Granger, on the crest of Figuer Hill, near the little town of Franklin, Tenn. Rosecrans sulked at Murfreesborough; Bragg, at Tullahoma, lay in wait for him. But the cavalry of the south waited for no man. They menaced everywhere but most of all at Franklin, the federal right, an outpost weakened now by the withdrawal of all but two regiments and a small force of cavalry.

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Franklin had been attacked June 4, and Col. Baird had beaten off the attacking force. Since then they had waited, expecting Forrest, dreading Wheeler, and certain of the return of the rebels from Spring Hill, six miles to the south.

As commandant of Fort Granger, Baird sat in his tent door talking with Col. Carter Van Vleck. Two men rode out of the dusk, two unattended, unescorted strange officers. Baird rose to greet them. He noticed they were superbly mounted. Their uniforms and equipment showed them to be officers of rank and distinction.

Baird and Van Vleck stared at the strangers' new merino havelocks, which were unknown to officers and men, either north or south, except as something "foreign." The elder and taller of the two introduced himself as Col. Auton of the Army of the Potomac. His companion was Major Dunlop, assistant in the inspection of western troops ordered by Washington, D.C.

They told of seeing Gen. Rosecrans at Murfreesborough and Gen. Gordon Granger at Triune. They could not stay the night but planned to go on to Nashville. While their passes were being issued, they told of being attacked by the rebels, their servant being captured, and of the loss of a coat and their money before escaping. They asked to borrow money for immediate expenses.

Baird didn't have the money, but asked Van Vleck for funds. He replied that he did not believe the men's story and thought they were spies. Baird asked to see their papers and read them thoroughly before he was satisfied, handed them back, and apologized for doubting them. He found \$50 for them, gave them a pass, gave them the countersign, and wished them Godspeed.

They had no sooner disappeared in the night before Baird thought of possible forgery. He could not ~~decide what to do, let them go, or~~ order them brought back. He consulted Col. Louis D. Watkins of the Sixth Kentucky cavalry, telling him the story, his suspicions, Van Vleck's outspoken charge, and immediately urged the men be brought back.

The spies were searched and concealed by the havelocks on their hatbands were their names and ranks in the Confederate Army — Lt. Walter G. Peter and Col. L. O. Williams.

Williams was 25 years old, his cousin Peter was 21 years. They had been close companions all their lives, the younger always blindly following his older cousin. It was surmised later that he had never known the real reason for entering Federal lines.

The drumhead court martial, the swiftest and most terrible of all courts of law, was convened at midnight by candlelight. The prisoners were brought in. The trial began of spies who had made no attempt to gain information, and carried no drawings of fortified locations or other papers condemning them. Their intention was never learned.

One hour later the trial was over. Baird telegraphed Garfield that Williams was a first cousin of Gen. Robert E. Lee, and was chief of artillery on Bragg's staff. Garfield replied that the guilty spies should hang. At dawn the chaplain reported to a haggard and listless Baird that the condemned men had written letters to relatives and business associates. They asked to be shot instead of hanged. Baird tried once more to appeal for clemency, but his message was not answered. After delaying longer than he should, Baird ordered the execution and the two men were hanged. All those who witnessed the hanging agreed the men died bravely.

In the afternoon when Col. Baird had partly regained his composure, he sent the last of the series of messages to Garfield. "... The officers I executed this morning, in my opinion, were not ordinary spies, and had some mission more important than finding out my situation."

"They came near dark," he continued, "asked no questions about forces and did not attempt to inspect works, and after they confessed, insisted they were not spies, in the ordinary sense, and that they wanted no information about this place. Said they were going to Canada and something about Europe; not clear ... Though they admitted the justice of the sentence and died like soldiers, they would not disclose their true object. Their conduct was very singular, indeed; I can make nothing of it."

The solving of the mystery will now never be accomplished. All that is known is two Confederate officers went to Franklin, Tenn., where they were hanged, and that the tragedy caused the ultimate mental breakdown and death of Baird who was responsible for ordering the execution of the young men.

Valley heritage

Ts MAY 26 1985

Indiana mustered its

Ts MAY 26 1985

Indiana was among the first to respond to the summons of patriotism following the news of the fall of Fort Sumter on April 14, 1861. Gov. Oliver P. Morton pledged 10,000 Hoosiers to President Abraham Lincoln the next day. Terre Haute did its part.

The 14th Regiment, organized in 1861 for one year's service, and reorganized June 7 at Terre Haute for three years' service, was commanded by Col. Nathan Kimball. It showed a muster roll of 1,134 men, and was considered one of the finest; it was one of the first in Indiana.

This regiment saw a great deal of action from Cheat Mountain in September, 1861, to Morton's Ford in 1864, and during the movement South in May of that year to the last of its encounters, the battle of Cold Harbor.

The 31st Regiment was organized at Terre Haute, under Col. Charles Cruft, in September 1861, was mustered in, and left in a few days for Kentucky. Present at the reduction of Fort Donelson on Feb. 13, 14 and 15, 1862, its list of killed and wounded proved its desperate fighting qualities.

The organization was subjected to many changes, but in all its phases maintained a fame won on many battle fields. Along with the 30th Regiment of Fort Wayne, it passed into Gen. Sheridan's Army of Observation, and held the district of Green Lake, Texas.

The 43rd Battalion was mustered in on Sept. 27, 1861, under Col. George K. Steele, and left Terre Haute en route to the front within a few days. Later it was allied with Gen. Pope's corps, and afterward served with Commodore Foote's marines in the reduction of Fort Pillow. It was the first Union regiment to enter Memphis.

From that period until the close of the war it was distinguished for its unexcelled qualifications as a

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

military body, and fully deserved the honors passed upon it on its return to Indianapolis in March 1865.

The 71st Regiment of Sixth Cavalry was organized as an infantry regiment at Terre Haute and mustered into general service at Indianapolis on Aug. 18, 1862, under Lt. Col. Melville D. Topping. Twelve days later it was engaged outside Richmond, Ky., losing 215 officers and men, including Col. Topping and Maj. Conklin, together with 347 prisoners. Only 225 escaped death and capture.

After an exchange of prisoners the regiment was reformed under Col. L. Bittle, but on Dec. 28 it surrendered to Gen. J. H. Morgan, who attacked its position at Muldraugh's Hill with a force of 1,000 Confederates.

During September and October 1863, it was organized as the Sixth Cavalry Regiment under Richard W. Thompson and won distinction from that time on. It was mustered out at Nashville June 26, 1865.

The 85th Regiment was mustered at Terre Haute, under Col. John P. Baird, Sept. 2, 1862. March 4, 1863, it shared in the unfortunate affair at Thompson's Station, when in common with the other regiments forming Coburn's Brigade, it surrendered to the overpowering forces of the rebel

Gen. Forrest.

In June 1863, after an exchange, it again took the field, and won a large portion of that renown accorded to Indiana. It was mustered out June 12, 1865.

The 97th Regiment, raised in the Seventh Congressional District, was mustered into service at Terre Haute Sept. 20, 1861, under Col. Robert F. Catterson. Reaching the front within a few days, it was assigned a position near Memphis and later joined in Gen. Grant's movement on Vicksburg by the overland route.

After a succession of great exploits with the several armies to which it was attached, it completed its list of battles at Bentonville on March 21, 1865, and was discharged at Washington on June 9, 1865.

During its term of service, the regiment lost 341 men, including the three Ensigns killed during the assaults on rebel positions along the Augusta Railway from June 15 to 27, 1864.

The Seventh Battery was made up of volunteers from Terre Haute, Arcadia, Evansville, Salem, Lawrenceburg, Columbus, Vincennes and Indianapolis, under Samuel J. Harris as its first captain, who was succeeded by G.R. Shallow and O.H. Morgan after its reorganization.

From the siege of Corinth to the capture of Atlanta, it performed vast services, and returned to Indianapolis on July 11, 1865, to be received by the people and hear its history from the veteran patriot, Indiana Gov. Oliver P. Morton.

Official reports show that more than 200,000 troops were furnished to the War Department by Indiana. Some 50,000 state militia from time to time were called into active service to repel rebel raids and defend the state's southern border from invasion. Hoosier soldiers were present on nearly every battlefield during the Civil War.

strength to fight in Civil War

Clark, Dorothy (and)

Civil War stopped early county fairs

1 JUL 7 1985

When the Vigo Agricultural Society took over the land on the west side of Seventh Street (a county road) north of what is now Maple Avenue on May 1, 1859, the trustees were George W. Bement, Thomas P. Murray and Marvin M. Hickox.

Subscribers to the land purchase were William Paddock, William Balding, Jacob Jackson, E. Warren Chadwick, Ralph L. Thompson, William R. McKeen, Blackford B. Moffatt, William D. Ladd, Samuel McKeen, Cornelius Smock, Anthony M. Ostrander, William H. Stewart and Samuel Paddock.

Also, David Cusick, Edward B. Allen, Harvey W. Allen, Clark S. Tuttle, Simeon Wolfe, John J. Brake, Henry Fairbanks, Edwin Cartrell, Ormond Barbour, Levi G. Warren, A. E. Taylor, Joseph H. Blake, Luther Miller, Milton Rogers and J. W. Shepherd.

Also, Norman T. Wells, Harvey D. Scott, William B. Tuell, Patrick Shannon, John Bell, Moses Van Stoy, John C. Kester, J. Kester Sr., Alfred B. Begg, Richard W. Thompson, Chambers Y. Patterson, Thomas F. Wells, Robert S. Cox Jr., William Hall, Samuel Conner, Alexander Conner, John D. Chestnut, Corey Barbour and John Kizer.

Each shareholder agreed to pay Demas Deming a little over \$50 an acre for the land in three yearly installments. The group leased the land to the Society for seven years as a fairgrounds, but the agreement was not filed until July 11, 1861, about the time the army took over and quartered troops there during the Civil War.

The horse barns were converted into barracks and the racetrack was taken over for drilling the recruits prior to sending them south to the battle areas.

Fairs were discontinued for the duration, but there are records of meetings there in 1865 and 1866. By 1865 Brake had acquired 42 shares from the trustees, Hickox held three, and six others held one share each. This seems to have been the beginning of the end, but the fall fair was held there Sept. 20-23.

Historically speaking



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Jonas Seeley exhibited apples; George Kerkhoff, peaches; and D. E. Agar, beets, eggplant, tomatoes, parsnips, carrots, etc. Blankets, jeans and woolen yarns were exhibited by George Ellis; photographs by A. R. Miller; paintings by Mr. Wright; a cage of 49 canaries by Mrs. Jacob Miller, and a cage of 15 by Mrs. Chapman of the Clark House.

C. O. Lincoln operated one of his Superior sewing machines for the benefit of the curious. Mrs. Hussey showed two quilts, one a replica of an Odd Fellows chart complete with all emblems and mottoes, the other a Master Mason's carpet with all design emblems.

Miss Pepper showed a rag rug and a hair wreath. Mrs. York showed her thread lace, while Mrs. J. C. Walter exhibited millinery. G. B. Duy exhibited shoes and slippers for ladies, while boots and shoes from Doll & Mann attracted much attention.

Mrs. E. S. Hussey of Brazil exhibited beautiful dahlias; Mrs. Joseph Grover displayed cactus, tuberose, verbenas, salvia and roses, as well as a pomegranate tree with three developed fruits.

A set of harness from Slaughter & Watkins and a side saddle from Legg & Co. of Paris competed with pork barrels and kegs from the shops of Gilman and his rival, Scott. Tindal A. Madison exhibited a patented washing machine (hand-powered); Kerkhoff & Co. showed leather from their tannery at Lockport, and S. Wolfe & Co. displayed a variety of stoves, reapers, mowers and harvesters in competition with a line shown by Uriah Shewmaker & Co. A Bullock Mowing Machine from Jamestown, N.Y., aroused much local interest.

The horse races came in for a great deal of attention, but the news reporter was not impressed. He saw "nothing under three minutes."

Following the sale of the fairgrounds to Mr. Brake, there is some doubt as to just what happened, but records show the Vigo County Agricultural Association was incorporated Nov. 30, 1867, for \$10,000 divided into \$25 shares.

Holding 10 shares were John Weir, Thomas Dowling, Joseph Gilbert, John Haney, James Hook, Harvey D. Scott, William R. McKeen, J. H. Hager, Demas Deming, R. S. Cox, J. Cook & Son, Lucius Ryce and C. W. Brabour.

Also, William Patrick, John Jackson, Jacob Ryman, C. C. Smock, Thomas C. Pugh, John S. Beach, Origen B. Soules, Hiram Smith, Theron Sutcliffe, Elias Cummins, Preston Hussey, J. H. McMurtie and Warren Soules.

Holding five shares were Anthony M. Ostrander, Isaac T. Mills, Silas Price, Leonard H. Mahan, and those with four shares were William R. Hunter and A. B. Fouts. Owners of two shares each were Louis Seeburger, George M. Duy, William Hall and John C. Meyer.

Holding one share each were Andrew Cooper, Sevelan Wyeth, George Sankey, Marvin M. Hickcox, Thomas McCullough, William Paddock, Franklin Sankey, John J. Brake, Elias B. Sheets, R. J. Harris, Isaac C. Meyers, David W. Crossley and L. A. Burnett.

In 1867 Terre Haute and Vigo County were selected as the site for the state fair and work was begun on the new fairgrounds where the Memorial Stadium and golf course are now located. Trees and brush were cleared off for buildings and a half-mile racetrack. On Oct. 3 the fair opened to huge crowds exceeding the 1865 state fair at Fort Wayne with 46,200, the 1866 fair at Indianapolis attended by 38,000, with 55,214 paid admissions in 1867.

The Vigo County Commissioners had purchased the western part of what became the fairgrounds from Leathy and W. R. McKeen, Ann F. and Samuel McKeen, Ella McKeen, Sarah J. McKeen, H. Clay McKeen, Charles W. and Anna N. Warren for \$8,977.50.

They leased the grounds to the Agricultural Society on condition that an annual fair be held there. They stipulated that a good board fence should be erected, and that trees could only be cut down if they interfered with roadways. The fairground would revert to the county if fairs were not held yearly, and the lease was to run for 20 years. However, in 1884 the Commissioners made a new lease for another 20 years. In 1891 they again issued a new lease for 30 years.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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REFERENCE

The fall meet of 1894 saw the fastest mile ever trotted, the fastest mile ever paced, the fastest heat ever made, the fastest three heats ever made, and the fastest race ever won. These news making events brought thrills to the whole world and put Terre Haute on the map as a harness-racing center above all others with its unique four-cornered track.

Knights of the Golden Circle *Clark, Dorothy*

Sons of Liberty

SEP 29 1985

sought slavery

Community Affairs File

Before the Civil War there existed in the South a secret order known as the "Knights of the Golden Circle." It had as its object the invasion of Mexico for the extension of slavery.

Members planned to set up a great southern slave empire surrounding the Gulf of Mexico (hence Golden Circle), but they lost enthusiasm for this scheme and shifted their attention to promoting secession in the gulf and border states in 1860.

When the Civil War broke out, chapters of this society were organized among southern sympathizers, first in the border states, then spreading north into Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. Here they took the name of "Sons of Liberty."

The order grew secretly until in 1862, according to reports of an investigating grand jury. It had about 15,000 members in Indiana with local "castles" or lodges and an elaborate system of signs, handgrips, words and signals for mutual identification and communication.

The "Sons" were pledged to resist payment of federal taxes, to prevent army enlistments, to release Confederate prisoners and to assassinate governors of northern states.

One incident concerning the activities of the Knights of the Golden Circle happened in Sullivan County and involved Fletcher Freeman, grandfather of Terre Haute resident Charles B. McClure. The son of Dr. Joseph Freeman, Fletcher was murdered by an unknown assassin while acting as an enrolling officer. The assassin was believed to be a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle.

McClure was told the story by this mother, Maria (Freeman) McClure, the daughter of Fletcher, and verified by his wife's grandmother, Emaline Lockard, a close friend and neighbor of the Freeman family. Her husband, John Lockard, was a Union soldier.

Historically speaking



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the bushes about 60 yards away in a direct line and almost on level range with this crossing. Brush and leaves had been removed to afford a clear view, and one bush was used as a rifle rest to assure accurate shooting.

As Freeman was on his way to work in the woods early one morning, he was killed about midway of this foot-log, the bullet passing through his heart.

His family heard the shot but thought nothing of it; wild game was plentiful and a rifle shot was not unusual. Freeman's body was discovered that afternoon by a neighbor walking over the foot-log.

Rumors began to circulate that lots were drawn at a group meeting. Three men got the assignment for the killing, but they met and drew lots for the actual deed. By this method the group did not know the three who were chosen, and only one of the three, the killer, knew who was to fire the fatal shot.

Local sentiment was very strong against anyone in sympathy with the Union cause, and a warning was usually given by placing a bunch of switches on the doorstep at night. Mrs. Lockard received such a warning, along with several of her neighbors whose husbands were away fighting for the North.

In one household where a warning had been received, desperate plans were made for defense.

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

Fletcher Freeman was a lieutenant of the Thirteenth Indiana Regiment in the Union Army when he became unfit for active duty and was assigned as enrolling officer for Sullivan County. Frequently his duties required him to hunt down and bring in draftees for military service, by arrest if necessary. Naturally he made many enemies, especially among those who were not in sympathy with the Union cause.

The Freeman home was about six miles southeast of Sullivan on a farm in Cass Township, later known as the Will Lund farm. One morning Fletcher found a note nailed to his woodshed door, a warning to quit his duties as enrolling officer at once or be killed. The threatening notice was signed "Knights of the Golden Circle."

As an army officer required to carry out his assigned duties, Fletcher began to carry a gun from that time on. He planned to defend himself. Three weeks later he was killed.

His murder had been carefully planned. About a quarter of a mile from his home was a path leading to the main road. Here it crossed a small branch of the creek over a foot log. In crossing over on this makeshift bridge, a person would be walking in a direct line and on level footing. The assassin hid in

against attack. Lamps were left unlit, and two members of the family stationed themselves on either side of the front door.

As they waited in pitch darkness for the expected attack, they were well-armed, one with a broad axe, the other with a well-sharpened corn knife. After the murderous attack and the brave defense, it was difficult to prove the identity of the would-be killers. Suffering from wounds received from the broad axe and the corn knife, they bled copiously, leaving a trail of blood to a certain nearby farmhouse. That family, however, swore the blood stains were caused by a freshly killed deer. Before the days of modern crime detection this was impossible to disprove.

In later years, two men were always identified as the culprits. One man had an injured hip and a bad limp (supposedly the victim of the broad axe) and the other had a useless left arm (supposedly caused when the corn knife severed his shoulder muscles).

This treasonable and dangerous element in Indiana was of two types. One group was not in sympathy with war and with the policy of the North in preventing secession by force of arms. The other group was distinctly pro-Southern in sentiment. Members of this group were called Copperheads and Butternuts.

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Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

moment's notice

Preserving the Union

Militia units from Vigo County ready at

FEB 9 1988 Community Affairs File

Clark, Dorothy

The war for the preservation of the Union, called the War of the Rebellion or the Civil War, involved more than three million men on both sides and lasted from April 12, 1861, to April 9, 1865.

Vigo County played its part in the conflict, recruiting the first company and the first regiment to be accepted for military service by Gov. Oliver P. Morton.

There had been a militia company here for some time before the outbreak of war. They were known as the Fort Harrison Guards, and shortly before the war began, Capt. Jabez Smith, commanding officer, sent word to the governor that it could be ready at a moment's notice.

As a result of this, the organization was the first in the state to be called out. The next company to go from Vigo County was the Vigo Guards, and the third was known as the Terre Haute Guards, who were ordered to Camp Morton in Indianapolis on April 23, 1861.

Here it was brought up to war

Historically speaking



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strength and returned to Camp Vigo on June 7, where it was mustered in, with nine other companies, as the Fourteenth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, the first regiment mustered into government service from Indiana.

Camp Vigo was an area of 51 acres between Florida Avenue on the north and Collett Avenue on the south, and between Third and Seventh Streets, formerly the Vigo

County fairgrounds. One month after the war began, the site was chosen as a training grounds for the first local regiment. The first three of the Civil War regiments raised in Terre Haute were trained there.

At that time the area was enclosed by a high board fence, and the stables, barns and other sheds used to house and display farm animals and farm equipment at the county fairs were converted to army barracks. The new recruits lived and cooked their meals on the ground floor and slept up above in the loft area on clean straw or hay.

Ten companies of about 100 men each were necessary to form a regiment in the Civil War. Men from the same town or county would gather together to form a company and elect their own officers. When the regiment was officially mustered in to the U.S. Army, a colonel was either appointed or elected: Col. Nathan Kimball of Loogootee commanded the first regiment raised at Camp

Vigo, the Fourteenth Indiana.

Mustered in on June 7, 1862, it went into service in the east. It became one of the most famous regiments of the war, helping to defeat Stonewall Jackson at the Battle of Kernstown in the Valley; it got closest to the Confederate lines in the bloody fight at Fredericksburg; and fought in most of the famous battles in the east, including Gettysburg.

After the 14th vacated Camp Vigo, a second regiment began to form. This one became the 31st Indiana, under the command of Col. Charles Cruft of Terre Haute. The 31st fought under Grant at Fort Donelson and Shiloh, under Rosecrans at Chickamauga and under Sherman in the Georgia campaigns.

Only one more regiment, the 43rd Indiana under Col. George Steele, was organized at Camp Vigo. Later Terre Haute regiments were formed at new Camp Dick Thompson on East Poplar Street.

In existence only four months, Camp Vigo turned out thousands of men and boys from Terre Haute and surrounding areas. Here they learned to drill and shoot a gun and wear a uniform. Finally, with the regimental bands playing, they marched off to fight and die for the preservation of the Union.

In memory of those brave men and Camp Vigo, a highway marker was dedicated Nov. 20, 1962, at a point about where Delaware Avenue would intersect Highway 41 if it continued through west.

According to the records of the Adjutant General of Indiana, the Muster Roll of the Otter Creek National Guards, dated Oct. 1, 1861, was signed by 41 men. They met at their headquarters in Markle's Mill at the intersection of Otter Creek and the Rockville Road, five miles north of Terre Haute. Military supplies were stored in the mill.

Names of the men who joined this unit were John Jones, Alm.

Henry, James L. Creal, F. M. Eppert, Warren Genung, F. H. Fullis, Thomas Hobbs, W. D. Stalnaker, A. J. Cox, Thomas Johnson and Thomas Ball.

Also, John Burdette, John G. Grindle, Fred Coleman, A. Markle, H. R. Mercer, Henry Balding, E. H. Hobbs, Curtis Creal, William Wrightman and Martin Clark.

Also, Isaac Carney, George Grindle, Robert Clark, Amos Kennedy, J. J. Belt, Robert Briggs, William Arnold, John Law, Eli Williams and William Montgomery.

Also, D. Strange, George Burnett, E. C. Davis, James Ladd, H. S. Creal, Mark Creal, Alpheus Rowley, Meginson Hall, Daniel Brown and Israel Price. Company Clerk H. R. Mercer signed the muster role and promised "what additional troops we get, I will send their names."

Terre Haute's home front was well guarded against rebel forces if they decided to attack this far north in Indiana.

Gay
soldier said

History (TA) + Clark, Dorothy

The execution of Pvt. Robert
Illness, not treason, led to desertion,

MAR 23 1986

Community Affairs File

The first military execution in the west during the Civil War took place in Indianapolis in 1863. Involved was the Seventy-First Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, which was organized in the summer of 1862 at Camp Dick Thompson located on the Bloomington Road (now Poplar Street) in Terre Haute. Company D of this regiment was made up of Clay County men.

Officers of Company D, all residents of Bowling Green, were Capt. Daniel A. Conover, First Lt. Edward A. Thompson, Second Lt. Thomas Cullen and Orderly Sgt. T. M. Robertson.

The regiment left Indianapolis for Richmond, Ky., on July 18, 1862. Many were killed or wounded in this engagement. Lt. Col. Melville D. Topping and Maj. William Conkling, both of Terre Haute, were killed in the battle. Twice captured and exchanged as prisoners of war, the Seventy-First had a varied history. Company D spent one summer guarding provisions at Camp Morton in Indianapolis and pursuing John Morgan and his Raiders.

Robert Gay, who came to Indiana from one of the river counties of Ohio, had been teaching school near Bowling Green in Clay County. About 27 years old, slightly above average height, slender and looking, as he said, in by no means robust health, Gay had no family nor near relatives.

As a member of Company D, Pvt. Gay on Sept. 5, 1862, deserted and took the oath

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

of allegiance to serve the enemy, the Confederate States. It seems that he requested the privilege of taking the oath in writing, and sewed the paper into his clothing.

When he was arrested in Clay County, Gen. Carrington searched him and found the document concealed in his pant leg. This showed the army officials that he knew exactly the nature of his act and the importance of evading detection. An intelligent man, and a teacher, he was believed entitled to less consideration than an ignorant or stupid man who might not realize how serious was his offense.

In his last speech, Pvt. Gray told the authorities that his health unfitted him for a soldier's duties, and he was at that moment, just before his execution, in

better health than he had ever been in his life.

He said he did not feel able to do his duty, and took the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy in order that he might not, as a paroled prisoner, be exchanged and forced to return to military service, but get a chance to stay at home. He admitted his guilt but said it was the result of thoughtlessness, and not a deliberate purpose to desert his country.

The execution of Pvt. Robert Gay, ordered at his court martial on the charge of desertion, was set for 3 p.m. on March 27, 1863, near Camp Morton. in Indianapolis, the first execution for such an offense, or any military offense, in the west. He was ordered to be shot by a firing squad.

In order to avoid a large crowd of spectators who might create a disturbance, and to avoid the possibility of a rescue attempt by the Knights of the Golden Circle, the general announced the execution would take place at 5 p.m. And to confuse those who might watch his movements to learn the time of execution, he kept a squad of cavalry at his headquarters with his horse saddled and ready to go during the whole afternoon. He then sent off an escort for the prisoner quietly by a back street, and never went to the execution at all. By this precaution, he managed to keep away thousands who would have embarrassed the proceedings and kept the crowd down to 200 or 300

civilians.

A few days before his execution, Pvt. Gay was taken from the Soldiers' Home where he had been confined after sentencing to the county jail. Shortly before the appointed hour he was taken from the jail in a closed carriage to the parade ground, an open field between Burnside Barracks and Camp Morton.

Here the 71st was drawn up in a hollow square, with the open side to the east. A number of men invited to be present were admitted by Col. Biddle and had a full view of the scene. In a few minutes the 63rd arrived with drums beating, and marched past the carriage with the prisoner. He leaned his head out the window to watch them as they formed on the south side of the square.

The cavalry were placed on the outside of the 63rd, and the artillery on the west and north sides. Leaving a small vacant space in the center, a compact mass of soldiers of all arms was formed.

The plain black walnut coffin with a flat lid was carried out and placed in the open end of the square some distance toward the center. An officer slowly stepped off a distance of 25 to 30 feet from the coffin to fix the line of the firing detail of 20 men, two from each company, formed in two ranks.

Standing like statues, the soldiers waited as four men — the prisoner, the sergeant major who had to

blindfold him, the chaplain and an unnamed friend of the accused — walked in to the open space and stood in front of the coffin.

Army regulations provide that the firing party shall not know whose gun holds the fatal bullet. The 20 guns were loaded, 10 with ball and 10 with heavy blank cartridges. The soldiers who were to fire did not see the loading, but drew their guns, as they came, out of a confused heap, so that no one could tell whether his gun contained a ball or not.

After a few last words by the prisoner who retained his composure to the last, and a prayer from the chaplain, the sergeant major tied Gay's hands, placed the black cloth across his eyes, and all was ready. A whisper to the firing party brought all the guns to a "ready." The clicking of the cocks was heard distinctly all around.

The guns were lowered to take aim, and their crash followed instantly. At the explosion, Gay fell straight back over his coffin, without a sound or struggle, killed instantly. In a few moments he was lifted into the coffin, the bandage taken off his eyes, and his blue cap placed on his head.

The coffin was put into Undertaker Weaver's wagon, the troops were dismissed and the most impressive and dreadful scene ever witnessed in Indianapolis, the first military execution in the west, was over.

Rebels imprisoned here

Records show Confederates treated well

According to the Adjutant General's report dated Feb. 28, 1862, there were 4,000 rebel prisoners confined in Indianapolis, 800 in Lafayette and 500 at Terre Haute, "all placed in comfortable quarters, under safe guard. Their quarters were well-warmed with large heating stoves and have bunks furnished with clean straw.

"They receive the same subsistence in every respect as our own troops, consisting of full rations of coffee, fresh bread, meat, beans, hominy, rice, potatoes, etc. ... indeed everything authorized by our Army Regulations.

"Some have received blankets and clothing from the U.S. Quartermaster ... they are supplied with materials and are allowed to write brief letters to their friends and families under the inspection of those in command. The sick are placed in comfortable hospitals in good clean beds and receive proper subsistence and medical treatment from excellent physicians assisted by prisoners detailed as nurses."

It was brought to Governor Morton's attention that about 300 of the Fort Donelson captives were badly in need of clothing. He telegraphed the Secretary of War for orders to have their needs supplied by the U.S. Quartermaster at Indianapolis, and the order was given promptly. Whenever a prisoner needed clothes, shoes or whatever else that was essential to his health or comfort, the government supplied his needs.

Another account tells that after the capture of Fort Donelson, a number of rebel prisoners were brought to Terre Haute and quartered at Farrington and Williams pork house on South First Street, a building that was later used by the distillery as a bonded warehouse.

Historically speaking



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There were several hundred of these prisoners, principally from Tennessee. After being paroled, a number of them remained here, some even enlisted in the Union Army. Two escaped from the guard, but were recaptured south of the city. A few of them died. They were buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Another source states that "on Feb. 22 and 23, 1862, 3,700 prisoners and some 80 officers arrived in Indianapolis. About 800 were also quartered at Terre Haute in large warehouses."

The recruits of the 61st or "Second Irish" Regiment under Col. Bernard F. Mullen performed guard duty. Another lot of captives was sent to Lafayette. The arrangements were only to be temporary, however, because all the prisoners were sent to Camp Morton at Indianapolis between the middle and end of March 1862.

Many of the Fort Donelson and Fort Henry rebel prisoners were sick on arrival in Indiana from the terrible exposure to which they had been subjected. Thinly clad and poorly fed, they were unaccustomed to the rigors of outdoor life in Hoosier winters. The prevailing diseases were pneumonia and diarrhea.

Ample hospital arrangements were made and everything that kindness or humanity could suggest was done to alleviate the distressing condition of the rebel prisoners.

The citizens of Indianapolis, Terre Haute and Lafayette responded to the calls for help from the authorities and furnished suitable nourishment, delicacies and attention. Despite all these efforts, however, the mortality rate was frightful during the first months.

All who died were decently buried in plain wooden coffins, in public cemeteries and a record was made of their names, regiments, etc., for the information of relatives and friends. When the weather moderated and grew warm, a marked change took place in the general health of the southern prisoners and relatively few deaths occurred.

The exact whereabouts of the Confederate prison was difficult to pin down. An old newspaper clipping told of "the building where the Rebel prisoners of war were confined was in the Farrington & Krumbhaar pork house at about the 1800 block of South First Street."

Another source related how ole "Uncle" Lemuel Austin used to tell of the prison camp for Confederate captives during the Civil War which was "on the east side of First Street, about three blocks south of Hulman, directly across the street from the present junk yard ... nothing left but the foundation." At the time Austin spoke of this, he was a blind Union veteran living on Arleth Street.

There are hewn stone foundations still in place for a large building, large enough to have been a warehouse over a century ago.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

The property where the rebel prison was located during the Civil War was later known as the Scholz Heir's Subdivision. As far back as 1874 the land from First to Second streets and from Idaho past McKeen streets was vacant and listed in the atlas as belonging to the Shutz family.

The 1895 atlas shows the land owned by William Scholz, and by the 1907 atlas, the plot of land was labeled Scholz Subdivision. From Idaho to McKeen the 172-by-196-foot section was divided into two 45-foot lots and the rest left in one piece.

Hahn's recollections of the rebel prisoners told of the "big slaughter house where about 1,000 southern soldiers were brought. At First and Main was located a hospital where wounded men were cared for." He recalled that a German youth was in this hospital and his father took soup over to his wounded friend. "Once I recall that Pa went home and got all of the soup, and I didn't get any."

Word was being circulated that Morgan was coming our way. It so happened he changed his course, but later when local citizenry saw several hundred Confederates coming down the main thoroughfare, they thought that Morgan and his men had indeed arrived.

Col. Mullin's official report of Feb. 27, 1862, mentions "the prison barracks are the pork houses and our buildings belonging to Williams' company. The two warehouses were called Camp Harrison."

If anyone has more definite proof of the exact location of this Confederate prison, please contact me at 2032 N. Eighth St., Terre Haute 47804. At some future time this site should be marked in a suitable manner.

Relics tell us of black soldiers' Civil War role

SEP 28 1986

Some interesting Civil War relics were rescued from an attic in Brazil nearly 25 years ago.

A black and silver badge was inscribed "In memoriam, Leslie Post No. 410, GAR, Seelyville, Ind." A star-shaped metal badge and ribbon of the GAR was decorated with the American eagle over crossed cannon and the traditional mound of cannon balls.

The third item was an oval tintype of Cpl. Yancy Walden standing at attention in uniform with his army rifle at his side. With the bayonet affixed, the gun was taller than he was.

His official honorable discharge from the army was the most important relic found because it told something about the man. He enlisted Dec. 23, 1863, to serve three years, but was discharged at Corpus Christi, Texas, on Nov. 8, 1865.

Yancy Walden served as a corporal of Capt. Jacob M. Wells' Company B, 28th Regiment of U.S. Colored Infantry Volunteers. Born in Owen County, Ind., Yancy was 28 years of age, 6 feet tall, with brown complexion, black eyes and hair.

Historically speaking



By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

Most Hoosier Negroes were enrolled in the 28th Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops, organized in Indianapolis. Others served in the 8th, 13th, 14th, 17th, 23rd and 65th colored infantry regiments, and in the Fourth Heavy Artillery Regiment. Black men from Indiana also were found in the First Michigan Regiment and the 14th Rhode Island U.S.T.C., as well as in the Massachusetts 54th.

The number of black troops from Indiana in the Civil War cannot be accurately ascertained. One source states that the total was 1,537 although only 800 were credited to Indiana's quota. Since the entire Negro population of the state was only about 11,000 at the beginning of the war, it appears that a large percentage of the men of military age entered service. One evidence of this is the fact that the colored Masons of the state didn't hold their annual meeting in 1864 because so many of the members were in the army.

At first, Negroes did not receive the same pay as white soldiers but were given only the pay of laborers working for the army. On June 15, 1864, Congress provided that they should receive the same uniforms, arms, equipment, rations and pay as white soldiers.

The men of the 28th Regiment assembled and received preliminary training at Camp Fremont southeast of Indianapolis between December 1863 and April 1864.

On the eve of their departure from the city they paraded through the downtown streets. They were sent to a camp near Alexandria, Va., for a brief period of additional training. Next they were sent to White House, Va., where they took part in an engagement on June 21. Then they were sent with Sheridan's cavalry through the Chickahominy swamps, where they suffered heavy losses from frequent skirmishes with the rebels.

When the Indiana units arrived at Prince George's Court House, they were assigned to a division in the Ninth Army Corps. Under this command they participated in the entire campaign before Petersburg, including the deadly battle of the Crater where nearly half of them were killed or wounded.

The troops of the 28th and 29th were charged by the enemy and temporarily thrown into disorder by the intensity of enemy fire. Both white and black troops poured back in panic, but later reformed and fought on.

An eyewitness account published in a New York newspaper defended the bravery of the black troops. The 28th lost seven officers out of 11, and 91 men out of 224. New recruits were brought in to fill the ranks and four more companies were formed.

The 28th took part in the battle at Hatcher's Run and was later assigned to the Quartermaster's Department at City Point. It took part in the march against Richmond, the first troops to enter that city.

At the end of the war, the 28th was sent to Texas for a time until discharged at Corpus Christi on Nov. 8, 1865. On Jan. 6, 1866, a parade of official welcome in their honor was held in Indianapolis.

Not much has been learned about Cpl. Yancy Walden after his return from the Civil War. He became a land owner south of Burnett, possibly half way between Burnett and Seelyville. His wife, Sylvia, bore him two sons, William and Harvey, and there may have been other children.

Grand Army of the Republic, Leslie Post No. 410, to which Yancy Walden belonged, was organized at Seelyville on Sept. 12, 1885, with 20 members, all Civil War veterans. They included Laban H. Dickerson, P. M. O'Connell, James H. Hamilton, Henry C. Dickerson, Samuel Cheek, Samuel S. Ripley, Joseph H. Scofield, Francis M. Cooper, Nelson Palmer, Allen W. Carter, Moody C. Ripley, Abner S. Gray, John D. Kearschner, William G. Craig, David E. Swalls, William H. Ellia, Samuel E. Coltrin, Silas M. Compton, Henry M. Hyde and Joseph Carmicle. In 1891 there were 45 members.

The new post was named in honor of Lt. Col. Leslie of the Fourth Indiana Cavalry, who fell in a gallant charge on the enemy's battery at Fair Garden, East Tennessee, on Jan. 27, 1864.

The descendants of Civil War hero, Corp. Yancy Walden, can be proud of their ancestor's service record.

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Community Affairs File

dead

They also served who buried the

Ts OCT 26 1988

Clark, Dorothy J.

Terre Haute's pioneer undertaker, Isaac Ball, was asked some years before his death in 1907 to tell about his most memorable experience during the Civil War.

He recalled, "The Civil War was a strenuous time not only for the soldiers but also for the undertakers who had to care for the remains of the soldiers killed in battle."

At the end of November 1864, he was commissioned to remove the bodies of Maj. John P. Dufficy, William A. Rogers, John Singhorse and John T. Cuppy from cemeteries in Bridgeport, Ala., and Chattanooga, Tenn., to cemeteries in Terre Haute and vicinity.

"It was necessary for me first to get to Louisville and get permission from the army authorities to pass the lines," he related. "When I arrived in Louisville, a pass was refused me, and I feared I would not be able to get to my destina-

Historically speaking



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tion."

One of Maj. Dufficy's relatives was traveling with Ball, and he managed to persuade the conductor to accept \$5 to allow them to board the train, the last train to leave for the south. Soon after their departure, the Confederate forces tore away the railroad tracks leading from Louisville into Ten-

nessee.

The passengers were compelled to lie flat in the coach or risk being shot by rebels lying in ambush along the tracks. Ball and his companion arrived unharmed at Chattanooga.

With their business completed at the cemeteries in Tennessee and Alabama, Ball and his companion began to worry about their return home. The railroads had been torn away, and a journey by foot through the forests and over the mountains was not an inviting prospect.

As the situation worsened in Chattanooga, just before the battle of Nashville, all citizens were required to pledge themselves to enter military service in case they were needed. Ball and his traveling companion signed the pledge, but didn't plan to keep their promise because they were badly needed at home.

It became necessary to escape

from Chattanooga and make the journey on foot with some troops and returned prisoners who were leaving for the north. They had to provide their own arms and ammunition.

According to Ball, they were on the road about eight days, traveling about 20 miles a day. From Knoxville, Tenn., to Crab Orchard, Ky., was 175 miles, and each mile seemed longer than the others as they trudged along.

"The experience was new to my companion and myself," Ball said, "as we were not used to the hills and deep forests. The weather was favorable, however, and we were not molested by the rebels."

Another account of this event told that "the march across the Cumberland Mountains not only wore his boots from his feet, but the flesh to the very bone." Ball expected to be gone a few days, but did not return for three months,

often enduring great hardship and causing great anxiety to his family and friends.

During the Civil War, when Confederate soldiers were held in a temporary prison at Terre Haute, Ball gave decent burial in Woodlawn Cemetery to those prisoners who died in captivity. He was never paid by the federal government for his burial of the dead rebels.

Several years later a government agent came to Terre Haute to locate the graves. It was the intention of the government to mark with a tombstone every Confederate grave in the north. The 11 prisoners of war were buried in a row along the front fence line just south of the gate house at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Since the individual graves could not be identified, it was decided to erect the government's tall monument in the center of the circle in the south part or "old section" of Woodlawn.

The three bronze tablets on the sides of the stone column are inscribed: "Erected by the United States to mark the burial place of eleven Confederate soldiers who, while prisoners of war, died at Terre Haute and were buried in the cemetery where the individual graves cannot be identified."

Ten of the men were members of Cants' Ninth Battalion, Tennessee cavalry: Benjamin F. Cockrell, Isaac M. Foster, John R. Holcomb and John L. Johnson, all of Company A; Thomas S. Davidson, Robert H. Maxwell and George N. Zollicoffer of Company B; Thomas Bryan, Company C; Gilford D. Nunley and William P. Thogmorton, Company F; and Francis M. Gahagen, Company C, Twenty-Sixth Mississippi.

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Bloodiest battle 125 years ago

Ts SEP 13 1987

Horace Greeley was probably right when he pronounced the Battle of Antietam as the bloodiest day in American history. Although tactically it was a drawn battle, Antietam was decisively in the North's favor, and it ended the first Confederate attempt at a northern invasion.

The moral effect of the battle was even greater. It aroused the confidence of the North, and it furnished President Abraham Lincoln with a golden opportunity to issue his proclamation freeing the slaves in the seceded states.

The people who lived in the farmhouses in the valley of the Antietam had abandoned their homes. Sept. 16, 1862, was a day of maneuvering thousands of armed forces.

Lee had taken a strong position on the west bank of Antietam Creek where it flows into the Potomac. He made a display of force, exposing his men to the fire of federal artillery. He was waiting for the arrival from Harper's Ferry of Jackson's command. In fact, Jackson had already arrived, but his men were weary from marching. Also, a large number of his troops under A. P. Hill and McLaws had not yet reached the field.

McClellan spent the day arranging his corps and giving directions for planting batteries. With a few companies he rode along the entire

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front, frequently drawing Confederate fire and revealing their locations.

The right wing of his army, the corps of Generals Hooker, Sumner and Mansfield, lay to the north near the village of Keedysville. Gen. Porter, with two divisions of the Fifth Corps, occupied the center. Burnside was on the left of the Union line. Back to McClellan's lines was a ridge on which a signal station commanded a view of the entire battlefield.

Late on the afternoon of Sept. 16 125 years ago, Hooker crossed the Antietam and advanced against Hook's division on the Confederate left. Heavy skirmishing continued for several hours until dark.

The two great armies in a double line three miles long were facing each other. At one point the Union

right and the Confederate left were so close together the pickets could hear each others tread. All knew what would happen the next day.

On Sept. 17, the sun rose over the Maryland hills and artillery fire broke out. Hooker's infantry encountered the Confederates in an open field and pressed them back across the Hagerstown pike to a line of woods where they took a stand.

West of the Harpsburg and Hagerstown turnpike was a wooded area with rock ledges which formed an excellent retreat for the Confederates. From this woods the column pushed into the open corn fields to meet the Union attacks. The battle raged back and forth at this point for two hours with fearful slaughter on both sides.

Gen. Greene's division finally gained possession of part of the coveted forest near a little white church known as Dunker's Chapel. This was on high ground and was the key to the Confederate left wing. Ten brigades of rebel reinforcements were brought up and observers reported the ground became saturated with blood in the awful slaughter.

The Confederates were valiantly defending a sunken road (later known as Bloody Lane). The fighting here continued nearly four hours. When it was captured by the North it was filled with dead

bodies.

On the other part of the battlefield, Burnside held the Union left wing against Lee's right. A triple-arched stone bridge across the Antietam River was a key point, and McClellan sent an order to take possession of it and cross the stream.

Defending the bridge was Gen. Robert Toombs, a former U.S. Senator and a member of the cabinet of Jefferson Davis. He held the bridge for three hours, and then had to fall back. Some 500 soldiers were killed here.

Burnside then was ordered to the village of Sharpsburg, a move to cut Lee out from his line of retreat. They replenished the ammunition, added some fresh troops, and moved on to the village to find A. P. Hill's division of Lee's army waiting for them.

The Union soldiers were pushed back toward Antietam and Sharpsburg remained in Confederate hands. By nightfall the battle of Antietam had been going on for over 14 hours. More than 100,000 men, with 500 pieces of artillery, had fought in the combat.

As the smoke of battle cleared, it was evident that more than 20,000 men lay scattered for three miles over the hills and valleys or in improvised hospitals. A new reporter of that day wrote: "The scene was one to make the stoutest heart shudder."

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Burnside blundered 125 years ago

Back in 1862 the artist for "Harper's Weekly" drew a picture of the battle station of the reserve troops rather than the typical battle scenes.

The graphic drawing offers an overview of the battlefield as seen by the reserves, the line of battle off in the distance, next the artillery and second line of infantry. Across the road, fresh troops are seen rapidly marching into the woods toward the front to reinforce the wornout soldiers.

Near the center of the drawing are the generals, with their staffs, watching the action. The road is blocked with cavalry, infantry, artillery and ambulances going to and fro carrying the wounded to the rear. A house used as a hospital is shown, along with a group of prisoners being led away. What the reserves must be thinking as they watch the parade of dead and dying carried past them as they wait to join the battle no one knows.

The ground near the surgeon's table is strewn with amputated limbs. The shrieks of agony can almost be heard, the scene is so graphic.

"Harper's Weekly" reported that "we have again to report a disastrous reverse to our arms. Defeats with great slaughter in the battle of the 13th, Gen. Burnside

Historically speaking



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has now withdrawn the army of the Potomac to the north side of the Rappahannock, where the men congratulate themselves that it is at least in safety. And now, who is responsible for this terrible repulse?"

It was the opinion of "Harper's Weekly" editors that Burnside waited too long before crossing the river and taking Fredericksburg. He waited two weeks for pontoons and engineers to furnish a bridge for his army, for the railroad to be repaired to bring in supplies, and for these supplies to arrive.

In the meantime, Gen. Lee, with 150,000 men, became strongly entrenched on the opposite side of the river, on two ranges of hills which

command the slope at the foot of which the Rappahannock runs and Fredericksburg lies.

On the night of the 11th, a council of war was held. All the corps commanders, Gen. Sumner, Gen. Franklin and Gen. Hooker were decidedly opposed to a movement across the river and up the slope. It was rumored that Burnside stated he was ordered to cross the river and attack, and that he would do it, no matter what the cost. This closed the discussion. (And caused the needless death of thousands.)

On Dec. 12, the river was crossed without serious resistance. On the next day the rebel batteries were attacked in front by the bulk of Burnside's army, and the Union troops were repulsed with losses estimated to be 12,000 to 17,000 men. The rebel loss was slight. On Dec. 15, Burnside withdrew his army to the north side of the river.

According to "Harper's Weekly," "... these events are rapidly filling the heart of the loyal North with sickness, disgust and despair ... where this will all end no one can see. But it must end soon.

"The people have shown a patience, during the past year, quite unexampled in history. They have borne, silently and grimly, imbecility, treachery, failure, priva-

tion, loss of friends and means, almost every suffering which can afflict a brave people. But they can not be expected to suffer that such massacres as this at Fredericksburg shall be repeated. Matters are rapidly ripening for a military dictatorship."

Anniversaries of battles and events during the Civil War are not celebrations. They are (and should be) commemorations of countless heroic acts of thousands of patriotic Americans who were fighting for a cause in which they believed.

The bond of unity which enabled the United States to assume the position of world leadership is commemorated. Four years of tragic Civil War with brother pitted against brother are nothing to celebrate.

Gun enthusiasts and those who like to dress up in uniforms and play act battles are to be pitied. They are not promoting a true understanding of our country's history.

Gen. Ambrose Burnside came from Union County, Ind. Following his fateful blunder and stupidity at the battle of Fredericksburg, he is remembered best for the men's hairstyle known as "sideburns" because he wore his hair long on the sides with a full beard to compensate for his bald head.

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1 s MAR 06 1988

Civil War laws gave Lincoln broad powers

The 37th Congress of the United States expired just 125 years ago this week, having passed some of the most important measures ever placed in the statute books.

Harper's Weekly said the measures, in effect, created a dictator of the president of the United States, "with almost supreme power over liberty, property and life ... and this is well."

This was the mid-point of the Civil War, and Harper's Weekly believed a strong central government was indispensable to succeed in the struggle.

"One great advantage which the rebels have had over us," according to the Weekly, "is the unity of their purposes, and the despotic power of their chief. We are now on a par with them in these respects, and we shall see which is the better cause."

Giving President Lincoln these

Historically speaking



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broad powers were the Conscription Act, the Finance measures, and the Indemnity Act. The conscription bill enrolled all males of the loyal states (including Indians and Negroes) between the ages of 20 and 45 into a national militia.

It empowered the president to call them into service for three

years or until the end of the war. The only exceptions were the president and the vice president, and one adult male in each family where aged parents or infant children depended on him for support.

According to the census, some 3,500,000 men were eligible for this draft, not counting those already in the field. Any drafted man who preferred paying \$300 to serving in the Army could find a substitute.

Clergymen, professional men, merchants and manufacturers were exempt from carrying a musket, and could hire substitutes.

Under other laws, Gen. Hunter had a brigade of Negro troops at Port Royal; Gen. Banks had several colored regiments at New Orleans and Baton Rouge; Gen. Grant had a considerable Negro force at Vicksburg; and Gen. Rosecrans had several thousand at Murfreesboro.

The financial bill gave the presi-

dent power to increase legal tender paper money to \$550 million. He could negotiate U.S. bonds to run for not less than 10 and not more than 20 years, with 6 percent interest.

The money market and the purse of the country were placed at the disposal of the government. The secretary of the treasury could borrow if he could find a lender; if not, he could print more money.

Congress also empowered the president to suspend the Act of Habeas Corpus whenever it was deemed necessary. Specifically mentioned were the people in New York and Connecticut who were sending arms and supplies to the rebels, and the activities of the Copperheads and Southern sympathizers in Indiana.

This act speeded up the due processes of law during the Civil War. The country might have been

ruined while waiting for a jury to be empaneled to try a traitor.

A century and a quarter ago, times were no different than they are today. Many were in favor of supporting the government and opposing the administration.

Harper's Weekly believed it was better to avoid what happened in Mexico and Central America — incessant wars, constant subdivisions, a cessation of honest industry and agriculture, a decay of trade, a disappearance of wealth and civilization, all replaced by chronic strife, rapine, bloodshed and anarchy.

The editor strongly believed "To avoid these things, we can well afford for a few years to have a strong Government."

It must have worked; the North won the Civil War, but there are many who will argue that point still.

Community Affairs File

Fighting with Sherman

Civil War diary tells of muddy march

Clark, Dorothy

Is APR 24 1988

Historically speaking



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Those of us who have ancestors who fought in the Civil War yearn to know more about those terrible years. Many veterans chose not to talk about their experiences, and families had no stories to pass down to later generations.

Yet if letters written by these men to their families back home were kept in trunks, cedar chests, and other safe places, at least a one-sided view of the war is available. Seldom was the soldier able to keep all of his correspondence from home to give a more rounded picture of the war years.

Many were not accomplished writers, but they managed to tell how many miles they had marched, through what weather, and how they hungered for news from home.

The papers, letters and diary of Henry J. Shafer, private, in Company I, 38th Regiment of Indiana Infantry Volunteers, tell of the march from Savannah in the Left Wing of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's army under Slocum. They moved up the Savannah River, accompanied by Kilpatrick, and crossed it at Sister's Ferry.

In Pvt. Shafer's words: "We left Savannah this morning at 10 a.m. and marched six miles and then camped for the night. It has been raining all day and is still raining very hard. It has been one of the most disagreeable days that I have endured for a long time." The date was Jan. 20, 1865.

The next day he remarked that

because of so much rain and such bad roads it was impossible to move. His outfit camped in a big swamp, remaining there for two days before moving out on dry land Jan. 24.

After drawing rations, the army moved on again. Sherman had let out word that he expected to get to Charleston or Augusta, his purpose being to deceive the Confederates. His real purpose was to march straight to Columbia, the capital of South Carolina.

The two wings of the army were soon united. They continued on their march from one end of South Carolina to the other. The men felt less restraint in devastating the countryside than they had felt in Georgia.

Sherman explained that there was a feeling of bitterness against South Carolina more than any other Southern state. It was South

Carolina that had led secession, had fired on Fort Sumpter, and had brought on the terrible rebellion.

On Feb. 8, Pvt. Shafer wrote that he had been out foraging all day. "Got all the sweet potatoes, meat and molasses that I could carry into camp... The weather is very warm and pleasant to march."

On Feb. 12, Shafer told about tearing up the Augusta & Charleston Railroad before continuing their march. On Feb. 17, Sherman entered Columbia, and by nightfall the city was in flames.

On March 11, Sherman reached Fayetteville, N.C., where he destroyed a large arsenal. Except for the annoyance of Wheeler's cavalry, Sherman's march had not been slowed by the Confederates. But this was to change.

Gen. Joseph B. Johnston, Sherman's old foe of Resaca and Kenesaw Mountain, had been recalled and put in command of the Carolina troops. No longer would the streams and swamps furnish the only resistance to the Union march.

On March 16, the first engagement came at Averysboro. Gen. Hardee made a determined stand, but a division of Slocum's army, aided by Kilpatrick's, soon put him to flight, with the loss of several guns and more than 200 prisoners.

The battle of Bentonville three days later was more serious. Johnston had placed his whole army, about 35,000 men, in a V-shaped formation embracing the

village. Slocum engaged the Rebels while Howard hurried to the scene. On March 18 and 20, Sherman's army fought its last battle of the Civil War.

Johnston withdrew his army during the night, and the Union Army moved to Goldsboro. Losses at Bentonville were 1,527 federal; 2,606 rebels.

Pvt. Shafer's diary recorded those battles. "Here came the Johnnies pell mell right in on our left flank coming right in behind us. Well, the thing looked kind of blue about that time. The bullets came thicker and faster just more than knocking the bark off of the trees. I was a little afraid that they would knock the bark off of me but they didn't.

"All I thought about after the left wing gave way and the Johnnies coming right in was about getting out of there about as fast as my legs could get away with me." Luck was with Pvt. Shafer that day.

"We formed and three batteries fetched them to a stand. We formed again and commenced pouring volley after volley into them and finally they fell back... the last charge they made was after sundown which ended the battle for the day."

Soldiers have marched along wet and muddy roads for centuries. But that was no comfort to the men in the Civil War, or for all those soldiers in all the wars that came later.

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Electioneering in 1860

People's choice won by narrow margin

Clark, Dorothy
 Editor's note: This is the second of two parts.

Abraham Lincoln never lost touch with politics during the interval after his loss to Shields. He took part in elections and by-elections. He canvassed on behalf of party friends when important jobs were vacant.

He became very shrewd, a good negotiator and an excellent chess player.

In 1854 Sen. Douglas, the most influential and popular Democrat, was steering toward his goal of being elected president in two years' time. Slavery issues were to decide his fate.

In fact, when the passage of his Kansas-Nebraska Bill was saluted by a salvo of artillery, they were considered the first shots of the Civil War, although

actual fighting would not begin until seven years later.

The Douglas affair revived Lincoln's ambition to run for the Senate. His wife only regretted that he was not a Democrat, the more gentlemanly party in her estimation. Scarcely known outside Illinois, Seward or Chase seemed more likely to be the Republican choice for the presidency.

A supporter requested some autobiographical material to help Lincoln's possible candidacy. The future president told of his birth on Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Ky., of Virginia-born parents. His paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockingham County, Va., to Kentucky about 1781 or 1782, where he was killed by Indians as he labored to

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open a farm in the forest. His ancestors were Quakers who went to Virginia from Berks County, Pa.

The campaign speeches went on until February 1860. Nominations were to take place in May. Everyone realized the integrity of the Union was involved in the election. Businessmen in the North would vote Republican. The famous Lincoln-Douglas debates were to decide the issue.

By April, Lincoln was more confident of his position and wrote numerous letters to party associates about his campaign. Chase, the governor of Ohio, or Seward, ex-governor of New York, were thought to be preferred candidates. As chance would have it, the Republican state convention of Illinois was conducted at Decatur, Lincoln's old stamping grounds.

A new symbol was found when John Hanks, Lincoln's cousin, carried in two old fence rails and told the crowds about Lincoln splitting 3,000 rails in pioneer days. Lincoln the "Rail Splitter" was even better

than "Honest Abe."

In May, 40,000 strangers flocked to the national Republican convention in Chicago. Lincoln remained at home in Springfield, keeping in touch by telegrams from friends. News of his nomination excited the over-50, gray-haired Lincoln, but election day in November would decide.

Lincoln received nearly 1,900,000 votes and Douglas 1,400,000. The other two candidates received another million and a half votes between them, so in fact Lincoln was elected by a northern minority. Out of 303 electoral votes, he received 180. In 15 States of the Union he got no electoral votes; and in 10 states, not a single popular vote.

But for the first time in the history of the United States, the North had used its preponderant numerical strength to vote down the South. The outcome of a civil war, should war come, also was forecast in this election.

Four months had to pass before he took up the reins of office, the most trying period in his life. Retiring President Buchanan chose to adopt a middle course as a "lame duck" and did nothing to prevent secession before his retirement to his Pennsylvania home.

Lincoln left the Springfield railroad station on a cold morning in February. Ten days of his journey through the northern states were troubled ones. Torchlight processions and serenades seemed out of keeping with the telegraphic news from Alabama where Southerners were meeting to discuss secession.

At the stop in Indianapolis, Lincoln said: "I wish you to remember, now and for ever, that it is your business, and not mine; that if the union of these States and the liberties of this people shall be lost, it is but little to any one man of 52 years of age, but a great deal to the 30 millions of people who inhabit these United States, and to their posterity in all coming times . . . Constantly bear in mind that not with politicians, not with Presidents, not with office-seekers, but with you, is the question: Shall the Union and shall the liberties of this country be preserved to the latest generation?"

At noon on March 4, old Buchanan drove up to Lincoln's hotel in an open carriage and they drove off together. For the first time, the streets leading to the Capitol were occupied by troops.

Carrying his brand new shiny top hat and his gold-headed walking stick (which his wife had insisted upon), Lincoln walked slowly through the corridor to the platform in front of the east portico in full view of the multitude of spectators. His old friend, Sen. Baker, introduced him.

Lincoln delivered his speech, which was well received, before taking the oath of office administered by Chief Justice Taney. Later the carriage carrying Lincoln and his family drove off to the White House. Honest Abe, the Rail Splitter, was now the 15th president of the United States.

The wheel of history keeps on turning, and soon voters will elect the next president.

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South rose in North

Sympathizers formed armed group to prepare for invasion in Midwest

1 s DEC 1 1988

The Knights of the Golden Circle was an organization that had one plan in mind — the establishment of a Northwestern Confederacy.

These Northern sympathizers with the Southern rebellion plotted to overthrow the national government by a planned, armed invasion into Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Forrest was to lead the one in Illinois; Wheeler or Morgan, in Indiana; Longstreet was to make for Ohio, while Marmaduke or Price was to come into Missouri.

Arms were to be shipped from Nassau to Canada and then brought into the United States. During the summer and fall of 1863, this secret society, also called the Circle of Honor, the Order of American Knights, and the Sons of Liberty, became armed.

Arms were shipped from the East principally; some packages from Cincinnati, and some from Kentucky. The boxes were marked "pickaxes, hardware, nails, etc."

Gen. Carrington estimated that in February and March nearly 30,000 guns and revolvers entered Indiana. He also stated that at the office of Daniel W. Voorhees at Terre Haute were discovered letters which disclosed a correspondence between him and ex-Sen. Wall of New Jersey regarding the purchase of 20,000 Garibaldi rifles to be forwarded to the West.

Witnesses at the treason trials at Indianapolis in 1864 told of many meetings, speeches and initiations. They told of joining the Knights of the Golden Circle at a meeting in Terre Haute on or about Aug. 27, 1863.

Harrison H. Dodd, arraigned for treason, was alleged to have sent out letters of invitation from Terre

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Haute. One witness stated that there were about 15 present, and remembered P.C. Wright, D.R. Eckles, John E. Risley, Allum Bayley and John G. Davis. Most of them were strangers to him, he said.

According to a witness, Wright was in charge of the meeting. He stated the purpose was to organize a secret society. He initiated new members, and later organized the Grand Council of the State of Indiana. All new members received the three degrees at the same time.

Horace Heffren, an attorney of Salem in Washington County, was on trial for treason. He was asked about his joining, and told how Bayley of Terre Haute came to Salem and initiated 12 men into the order in Heffren's office.

Andrew Humphries, another of the men on trial for treason, was an ardent Secessionist. A government witness testified that he had spoken at Five Mile Prairie in Washington Township in Greene County to nearly 150 people, and at Linton. Another witness remembered hearing him speak at a

Democrat picnic about Sept. 15, 1863, "at any rate, it was the day after Mr. Collins was shot in Terre Haute by Mr. Brown."

Elisha Cowgill, a government witness and resident of Greencastle, testified that on June 4, 1863, he saw Humphreys at the head of about 400 men speaking to a crowd in Sullivan County. He was introduced by Edward Price of that county. When the crowd was asked why they were assembled and armed, they answered "to protect ourselves."

Threats were made against the provost marshal by the crowd, and some of the men swore to kill any man who attempted to enroll Cass Township. They wanted to know the name of the enrolling officer, but Cowgill did not tell them it was Fletcher Freeman who had been given the papers the night before.

A short time later, Col. R.W. Thompson informed Cowgill that Freeman had been shot and killed while working on the road. Cowgill got his papers and went down to Sullivan County and finished the job himself. Freeman's murder occurred about 10 days after the mob incident.

The first or vestibule degree of the Knights of the Golden Circle was designed to give no important information to the initiate. The fee was only \$1; the second degree cost \$1.50; and the third degree was \$2.50, a total of \$5 plus 20 cents per month. The order had the right to tax if they saw fit to do so.

If a member wanted to test another man's membership, he would stand in a certain position, and if the other man did not conform, he knew he was not a member and could not be trusted.

There were secret hand grips followed by the password, which was Calhoun spelled backward.

There were signs of distress, sounds like hooty owls in the dark woods, and signs to warn of the approach of government officials. A five-pointed copper star worn under the coat was shown upon meeting an enemy who would thus recognize a sympathizer and ally.

A similar star of German silver, hung in a frame, was displayed by members of their families in private homes in Indiana. This was for the purpose of ensuring protection to their property in case of a raid or other attack. It was stated that in many dwellings in Indiana, a portrait of John Morgan was exhibited for the same purpose.

After dark when hand signals and all that could not be seen, a member would give the word "Oak-oun" three times. Oak is the tree of the acorn, the symbolic emblem of the order, and "oun" is the last syllable of the password as it is usually pronounced.

President Abraham Lincoln was called "a damned Abolition rascal," "a Lincoln pup," and a "Lincoln dog that deserved to be killed."

History never ceases to amaze later generations. How neighbors in Sullivan and surrounding counties could be so opposed in their politics and patriotism is hard to understand.

Secret societies continue to attract the uneducated and unenlightened. Regiments of brave Union soldiers enlisted from Sullivan County, but cowards have always hidden behind some treasonous organization to avoid war.

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Community Affairs File

news of war

Newspapers, letters brought home

13 MAR 12 1989

Those of us used to instant news coverage from all over the world can hardly imagine how slowly news of Civil War battles trickled back from the fronts.

A large portion of every newspaper printed after July 4, 1861, contained as much news about local military companies as it was possible to obtain, as well as how the war was going for the North from telegraph news.

The 14th Indiana Regiment left Indianapolis on July 5, under Col. Kimball's command, for Virginia via Columbus and Bellair. The first company of cavalry from Indiana, under the command of Capt. Stewart, also left that day via Cincinnati. They were armed with carbines and Colt revolvers.

A large packet of letters from Cumberland reached Terre Haute on July 4, 1861. The War of the Rebellion, or Civil War as it was to be known, had begun.

One letter dated June 27 told of a skirmish . . . "A detail of 60 men was sent out this morning to guard

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the roads and stop all citizens from leaving the city . . . while I write, Charlie Boudinot, of Company C, has returned, bringing with him a secesh horse, saddle and bridle, he captured below the city. H. A. Davis is bringing in a prisoner of war. They are volunteers of the picket guard."

Added to this letter was the following: "Our companies have

just returned, bringing some arms, horses, and the body of young Hollinback. He was taken prisoner, and when they saw our forces coming, they murdered him in cold blood, helpless and defenseless. The boys have sworn to have a secessionist for every drop of blood in his veins. He was a noble fellow, and was brutally murdered in a noble cause."

The Indianapolis paper of July 4 reported: "The 15th and 17th regiments had a magnificent breakfast set before them in Cincinnati on Tuesday morning. The repast was set on clean table cloths in the Lower Market House, and was of a character with other hospitable entertainments of Indiana Volunteers by the people there.

"The two regiments went into quarters at Camp Clay to await orders from Gen. McClellan . . . they were ordered to Virginia and will leave Cincinnati at once. Capt. Stewart's cavalry company have

received orders to leave for the East today."

Lt. John E. Moore of the Fort Harrison Guards sent home an "extra" copy of the Cumberland Civilian & Telegraph which told of the recent desperate conflict between 13 Zouaves and a large secesh force of cavalry.

The names of these 13 Indiana heroes were David Hays, Co. A, captain of the scouting party; Elijah Baker, Co. A; Ed. Burkit and J. Hollinbeck, Co. B; J. R. Hallowell and Tim Grover, Co. C; Thos. Brasher, Co. D; W. Mulberger, Co. E; Lewis Farley, Co. F; Frank Harrison, Co. H; Harry Dunlap, Co. I; Ed. Thomas and R. M. Dunlap, Co. K.

According to one account, "Whilst Hays was engaged in deadly strife with a man of great power, he was attacked in the rear by another with a sword. He inflicted a severe gash upon Hays' head and was about to follow up the blow, when a Zouave sprang at

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him, and with a single blow from the butt of his gun laid him low.

"In another case a Zouave was thrown heavily upon the ground, apparently mortally wounded. Instantly the cry of 'knife him' came from the chivalrous Virginians. One of them was promptly over to the prostrated man, but before he could satiate his savage propensity, the crack of a rifle told the tale, that he had bit the dust.

"Another made sure he would accomplish the murderous feat, killing a supposed dying man, but his fate was the same. Another timely minnie cut short his fiendish career. But the Zouave had only been stunned by a ball grazing his temple. In a few moments he was upon his feet, and again in the fight.

"Every tongue praised the matchless bravery of this handful of men. Cpl. Hays is in the mouth of every one. He is a man of tremendous strength and knows no fear. He slew three men in the

strife, and one after he received his wounds.

"He is no stranger in such scenes having gone through similar ones in the Mexican War. It is said he had been wounded 11 times in the course of his campaign. Each individual engaged in this affair performed prodigies of valor and deeds of noble daring.

"This is conceded by all hands to be one of the most daring achievements in modern warfare, and reflects imperishable honor on Col. Wallace's men . . . no man doubts the valor of the 11th Indiana Zouaves."

Campaigns in which the 11th Regiment Infantry participated began with three months in Upper Potomac, 1861; Western Kentucky, 1861; Tennessee and Kentucky, 1862; Siege of Corinth, 1862; Tennessee and Arkansas, 1862-63; Against Vicksburg, 1863; Louisiana, 1863-64; and Shenandoah Valley, 1864.

Preparing for civil war

Soldiers, citizens step forward

MAR 26 1980
Terre Haute and Vigo County were among the first places in the North to realize the national crisis and begin active preparations for civil war after the secession movement's political campaign results in the southern states.

Two companies of local militia, the Fort Harrison Guard and the Vigo County Guard, stopped their fancy drills and sham battles and prepared for war.

Capt. Ogden C. Wood formed his Fort Harrison Guard in two ranks, stated the purpose of the meeting and commanded: "All in favor of offering Gov. Lane our services should the president call for troops, step two paces to the front." Every man but one in the company promptly stepped forward, and word was sent to the governor.

A few minutes later, the Vigo County Guards, commanded by Capt. Jabez Smith, had un-animously offered their services. This was between Jan. 10 and Jan. 15, 1861. These were believed to be the first volunteers to save the Union.

They were enlisted in the 11th Regiment, Indiana Infantry, under Gen. Lew Wallace. On their departure for the front, the Express reported, "the scene at our depot on the arrival and departure of the Zouave regiment on Thursday evening was exciting and impressive to the extreme."

"As the passenger train bearing the brave soldiers ran up to the station, they were welcomed by the booming of cannon and shouts of the assembled multitude."

"The two local companies were permitted to leave the cars and spend an hour with their relatives and friends . . . everyone seemed to feel proud of an interest in the gallant regiment."

Citizens in the outlying townships began to enlist a home guard during the latter part of April 1861. Sugar Creek conducted a meeting at the township house on April 23. Ralph Lawrence chaired the meeting, and John D. Casto

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served as secretary. A committee was appointed to draft resolutions, which were adopted.

Samuel Royse and William Goodman gave speeches. The books were opened, and Company A received 40 names and Company B received 60 names.

Lost Creek citizens held a meeting the same day and organized a company of home guards. Ralph Wilson was chosen captain of the company, and James Burgan the first lieutenant.

Newspapers told how "the Terre Haute boys in camp at Indianapolis were not forgotten by their friends. The women folk sent good things to eat, and the express company delivered them free."

On May 4, 1861, the governor appointed Dr. John C. Thompson of Terre Haute as assistant surgeon to the 11th Regiment.

Gen. George K. Steele of Rockville donated \$200 to Capt. Foote's company of volunteers in Camp Morton.

On May 10, work was begun to transform the old fairgrounds north of the city into a military camp known as Camp Vigo. The army took possession the next day.

Capt. Hager's company was the first to go into camp there. A company from Bloomington followed, along with companies from Vincennes and Evansville.

On May 13, the Central Presbyterian Church ladies

donated New Testaments to the soldiers at Camp Vigo. These were presented by the Rev. Dr. Gordon.

The young ladies of the female college made a beautiful banner to fly over the building.

On May 15, the Owen (County) Guards, led by Capt. Martin, expressed their thanks to Mrs. T. H. Nelson for distributing to them much needed bed clothes and food.

On May 17, the Express reported that "through the exertions of some of our citizens, a fine large cannon, a twelve-pounder, has been cast at Grower's foundry, and is now fitted up ready for use."

On May 22, the ladies of Indianapolis and Terre Haute presented a fine flag to the 8th Regiment. Here at home, a number of soldiers at Camp Vigo became ill, and a hospital was erected in a hurry. The first sermon at Camp Vigo was preached Sunday, May 26, by the pastor of the Congregational Church. The church choir sang, and the men joined in singing the "Star Spangled Banner" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Gov. Morton appointed local hotel owner T. C. Buntin as Regimental Quartermaster of the 14th Regiment.

At the Terre Haute schools, flags were made by teachers and students, and programs were arranged to fly these flags, read poetry and ensure patriotism of the children.

Isaac M. Brown claimed the honor of being the first three-year volunteer from Vigo County. The call was issued before the time of the three-months' men was finished. A public meeting was held in the old courthouse to recruit. Several speeches were made, and then a call for volunteers.

While the men were waiting for someone to begin, Brown slipped from the chairman's place and signed the paper, the first of a large number of gallant men who left Vigo County to go through the Civil War.

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Civil War's final days

Long, bloody road finally ended at Appomattox

15 DEC 03 1989
During the winter of 1864-65, the life of the Confederacy was ebbing fast.

General Lee was fighting General Grant without, and fighting famine within. The shivering, half-clad soldiers of the South crouched over feeble fires in their entrenchments. The men were exposed to the rain, snow and sleet; sickness and disease soon added their horrors, and the finances of the South were almost gone.

Appomattox was to be the closing scene of one of the greatest tragedies ever enacted on the world's stage. The actors and their parts had been real. Thousands of homes were ruined. Fortunes had melted away by the hundreds of millions. The people of Richmond were starving, and now the limit of endurance had been reached.

On April 2, 1865, Lee realized that after Petersburg his beloved Richmond must fall. On the next day, Richmond was in flames. The capital of the Confederacy, the pride of the South, toward which the Army of the Potomac had fought its way, leaving a trail of blood for four weary years, had at last succumbed to the overwhelming power of Grant's indomitable armies.

Richmond was in a state of riot. President Davis gathered up his personal papers and the Confederate archives and fled. After the magazines were fired, the flames spread to the city from the ships, bridges and arsenal. Hun-

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dreds of buildings including the best residential section of Richmond were destroyed.

When the Union army entered the city in the morning, thousands of the inhabitants, men, women and children, were gathered at the street corners and in parks in wildest confusion. The Federal soldiers stacked arms and heroically battled the fire, drafting all the able-bodied men found in the city. They soon restored the city to a state of order and safety.

President Lincoln, who had visited Grant at Petersburg, entered Richmond on April 4. He visited President Davis' house and Libby Prison, then deserted and held a conference with prominent citizens and army officers of the Confederacy. Only 10 days later the nation was shaken by the tragic news of Lincoln's assassination.

On April 6, the remainder of the Confederate army continued the

retreat and arrived at Farmville, where the men received two days' rations, the first food except raw or parched corn in two days. On the evening of April 8, Lee reached Appomattox Courthouse. Here ended the last march of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Lee and his officers conducted a council on war on the night of April 8, and it was decided to make an effort to cut their way through the Union lines the next day. Grant sent to Lee a courteous request for the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, based on the hopelessness of further resistance. In reply, Lee expressed sympathy with Grant's desire to avoid useless bloodshed and asked the terms of surrender.

Lee replied promptly to the terms of surrender, rejecting them. The Confederates were to lay down their arms and the men and officers be disqualified for taking up arms against the U.S. Government until properly exchanged. When Grant read Lee's letter he shook his head in disappointment and said, "It looks as if Lee still means to fight; I will reply in the morning."

On April 9, Grant sent another communication to Lee, repeating the terms of surrender. Lee reconsidered the proposed treaty and a conference of the two commanders took place at Appomattox, a small settlement with only one street, but to be made historic by this event.

Lee awaited Grant's arrival at the house of Wilmer McLean. Here, surrounded by staff officers, the terms were written by Grant for the final surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Colonel T.S. Bowers made a copy of the terms of surrender in ink. Colonel E.S. Parker, the full-blooded Indian on Grant's staff, an excellent penman, wrote out the final copy. Many years later, it was learned that General Horace Porter loaned Lee a pencil to make a correction.

Details of the surrender were arranged the next day. Confederate soldiers were permitted to keep their own horses. There were only 28,000 men to be paroled. Fewer than one-third were actually bearing arms. The Confederate losses of the last 10 days of fighting probably exceeded 10,000.

Federal soldiers shared their rations with the starving "Johnnies," and these acts of kindness helped to restore good feeling and promote the memory of reunion rather than strife in Appomattox.

Thus ended the greatest civil war in history. Soon after the surrender of all the remaining Southern forces, the Southern Confederacy was a thing of the past.

In the first week of May, General "Dick" Taylor surrendered his command near Mobile. On the 10th of May, President Jefferson Davis, who had been a fugitive for six weeks, was overtaken and made a prisoner near Irwinsville, Georgia. It was finally over.

Civil War diary

Accounts of life, death in 'land of booming cannons'

Ts JAN 21 1990

I suppose over the past 30-odd years I've read hundreds of diaries. All types and sizes, including centuries-old family records written by men, women and young adults, have intrigued my interest.

I've learned more firsthand history, geography, and psychology from diaries than is found in textbooks. Of great interest are the tiny, leather-bound, pocket diaries carried by the soldiers of the Civil War.

Few of these young men were scholars; their spelling was imaginative, and each day's weather report was included. Facing a dubious future, they sensed a need to remind themselves of war experiences if they survived. Their children and grandchildren could share the biggest event in their life — the military years.

Frances Pointer Crews entrusted me with her grandfather's diary for the year 1864. Like so many others, Samuel Carter Harrison served with Company C of the 85th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers.

Born in Prairieton, Ind., in 1841, Harrison had two wives, many children, and died in 1907. He is buried in Hull Cemetery.

This diary begins in April 1864. If there were earlier ones, they did not survive. The actual diary entries begin April 1. They follow several pages of interesting printed information about eclipses of the sun (there were 12 in 1864), phases of the moon, postage rates, the number of slaves in border and gulf states, the population of major cities in the U.S. since 1850, and a hand-written "receipt" for homemade soap.

M. E. Harrison and Fen(e)lon Harrison had sent him money from the family farm in Vigo County.

The first entry states he sent his overcoat home by express. The next

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day the men all drew new clothing, and the sick were all sent to Nashville, Tenn.

On April 3, the 10th Ohio Cavalry took up their march to the front. In the next few days, other regiments headed for the front. There was drilling, letters from home, and young Harrison was enjoying a quiet camp. New recruits swelled the ranks, and there was more drilling, inspection of arms and equipment, drilling in loading and firing.

Teams went to Nashville for supplies. Harrison's detached company, the Drum Corps, went out to practice for the upcoming dress parade. Scattered through the diary were frequent mentions of these practice sessions.

On the morning of April 20, the 85th and 22nd Regiments started for the front ... on a clear and pleasant day, they traveled 10 miles before stopping for the night.

Starting early the next morning, they arrived at Murfreesboro by noon, drew rations and went to church in the evening.

Striking the tents at 7 a.m. on April 22, they marched 14 miles before camping at Old Fosterville. The next day they marched to

Shelbyville and pitched tents on the banks of Duck River.

After marching 12 miles on the next day, they camped on Splunge Creek. The next stop was Tullahoma, then the Cumberland Mountains, crossing Elk Creek.

Some of "the boys" were ill and had to go through on the cars (railroad). Camping places included Cowen Station, Bridgeport, on the bank of the Tennessee River, White Springs and Lookout Valley.

On May 6, Harrison reported that "we went into camp at noon and built breast works in the evening of rails and logs." The next day they marched 25 miles to find themselves "in front of the enemy near Dalton." His outfit succeeded in driving the enemy from one ridge and silencing one of his guns. Cannonading is heard plainly now, and the next day they arrived at Snake Creek, Ga., where they formed battle lines and held them til morning.

On May 13, General Kilpatrick was wounded during the advance and heavy skirmishing. On the 15th, they charged the rebel works and by the next day had driven them back "with a heavy loss of men and three cannons. The enemy retreated in several directions."

On May 17-18-19, Harrison survived marching, skirmishing, taking prisoners, and driving the enemy south. His brother "Rast" of the 31st Regiment came to spend the day on May 22.

Daily diary entries listed traveling through unlevel country, skirmishing, putting up breast works, marching steadily each day after the enemy. Rebel sharp shooters picked off the men as they worked on the fortifications. By May 29, he remarked that "the boys in the Regt. begin to look bad for the want of rest."

On June 1 the army was getting into position. The weather was warm and rainy. When it was clear, he washed his clothes. One night he slept in a corn crib. Rations were getting scarce. The rains turned the roads to mud, and guarding wagon trains under fire in the Kenesaw Mountains was difficult.

On June 20 Harrison reported Colonel Baird was drunk and took the Regiment in front of the works nearly to the skirmish line without orders. The brigade officer succeeded in getting them back. Baird was forced to "resign on account of disability."

"Col. Baird bid adieu to his Regt. He went through the camp to shake hands with every man and acted like a child," Harrison observed.

The next day they marched within four miles of Atlanta and camped in underbrush. His brother Rast came to visit, and "we spent most of the day enjoying ourselves in the land of the booming cannons."

The Rebels were fighting to save Atlanta, and the number of wounded climbed higher. The musical corps of the Second Brigade were ordered back to the 3rd Division Hospital of the 20th A.C. to assist with the wounded.

Drummer Harrison "held the light while limbs were amputated." On July 22, the 85th Drum Corps was ordered to the Regiment as their help with the wounded was needed. They had advanced within a mile and a half of Atlanta.

By July 24, he wrote, "the enemy still annoyed us with his shelling. Our bugler, A.A. Shell, was ordered to lead the hospital mule and act as Surgeon tender."

☆☆☆

Next week's column will conclude the Civil War diary for 1864.

A Clark, Dorothy

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The agony of war

Soldier's diary recounts Civil War's daily grind

Continuing Drummer Samuel Carter Harrison's diary of 1864...

A constant rain made the heat more humid, but the men were ordered to receive General Hooker's farewell address. According to the diary, "But the enemy got up an excitement on our front, and Hooker no come."

For the next several days, the Union troops moved closer to Atlanta and kept pressing the siege. The Drum Corps was in the thick of it, crossing the river Aug. 5.

Harrison and his brother Rast managed to trade frequent visits, getting passes to stay overnight. He always brought back a haversack full of goodies from the hospital — delicacies like pickles and onions.

By Aug. 22, the constant shelling stopped, and only picket firing interrupted the welcome quiet. Harrison reported attending church services, making rude furniture for their camp, getting his watch repaired by a silversmith in another regiment.

Atlanta was surrendered by the Civil Authority on Sept. 2. On Sept. 10, he and Rast spent the day buying mementoes for the folks at home. Rast left by train for his furlough.

From Sept. 11 through Sept. 24, there were no exciting entries in the diary. On Sept. 25, "our Drum Corps was ordered to the Drum Corps of the Twenty-Second. All the musicians belonging to one brigade were consolidated — three drum corps and two bands."

On Sept. 27, the brigade was inspected for clothing. Harrison fixed up his drum, and reported a new bass drum had arrived from Chattanooga. When he went out for practice the next day, he "busted my drums" and had to fix them the next day.

There were several practice sessions for the dress parade, and there was no news in camp. The first week of October, rations were slim, the summer weather had turned to fall, and the Rebel army

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was reported in a critical position. They had evacuated Richmond.

The presidential election and going out foraging for food filled the diary entries. The men on duty voted 308 for Morton; 286 for Washburn; 15 for McDonald; and 18 for Vorhees.

The forage wagons were bringing in lots of corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, horses, hogs, chickens and one beef. They salted down the pork and beef.

The weather was "very rainy and disagreeable" on Nov. 3. Harrison made a pair of oil-cloth pants to wear on the coming campaign — destination unknown.

On Nov. 12, the men were tearing up railroad tracks in Atlanta and destroying public houses. The Atlanta Machine Shop burned Nov. 14. The next day, the Union army marched eastward while Atlanta finished burning.

Their orders were to march 15 miles a day and live on the land, tearing up rails, and destroying public property. On Nov. 21, they foraged for turkeys, honey and a mule. The weather was beginning to freeze. At Milledgeville, they destroyed property and burned seven miles of fencing.

By Nov. 25, another problem was added — Georgia's swamps, some so large it was necessary to pontoon across or build a bridge. On the 29th, they lay in camp all day while the other brigades crossed a river. At dark, Harrison's

brigade was ordered to cross. Then they waded through swamps knee-deep in mud and water for a mile before camping for the night.

The next day, they washed clothing, and by nightfall were marching again, using lighted torches to see their way. On Dec. 1, they marched through a swamp three miles wide and camped at midnight. The next morning, they marched five miles, rested, then crossed a swamp single-file holding on to a wagon train. The next day was the same torture, and so on until Dec. 10 when they found the enemy and found a battle line five miles from Savannah, Ga.

On the 14th, his brigade went with a wagon train after staves to make rice barrels and get some forage. Rice was issued instead of hard tack. "Rice, beef and coffee is all we had for several days," wrote Harrison.

On Dec. 15, they received the first mail since leaving Atlanta. Two men from his outfit went to the rice mills on the Savannah River and bought half a bushel. By Dec. 21, they heard that the enemy had evacuated Savannah.

The weather turned colder, so they went to the Savannah Saw Mill to get lumber to put up warmer quarters. These were 10-foot by 7-foot by 4-foot high, only four men to a tent, army style.

Christmas came and went. Most of the men hoped to see next Christmas. Harrison went to hear an old slave preach and reported it was "quite a sermon."

His friend, Clay Potts, "went to town on the cars after oysters." He returned "with a good supply of oysters in shell."

On Dec. 27, the camp received good news from General Thomas and his army. Orders were issued for a Grand Review on Dec. 29. The 20th Corps would be reviewed by General Sherman.

"The Headquarters bugler sounds for brigade assembly. The music was consolidated and went at the head of the brigade. The line

was formed in town, and the Inspector came riding down the line at noon. Then we formed in review. It was the grandest sight I ever saw."

The diary ends with this entry: "We remain in camp til the middle of the afternoon. Then we again cross the river and are ordered back to town and get aboard a boat. We get on the boat — are ordered off til morning, and sleep on cotton bales. Night cold."

For anyone who has spent any time in the military of any war this should sound familiar, like the old "hurry up and wait."

Samuel Carter Harrison's granddaughter, Frances Pointer Crews, furnished a bit more family history. The soldier's father was Fentelon Harrison; his mother was Nancy Hull, daughter of the pioneer and donor of the Hull Cemetery.

The names of the seven sons were Madison Erastus "Rast" Harrison, John Wesley Harrison, William Hamilton Harrison, Francis Asberry Harrison, Fenlon Orlando Harrison, Albert Clark Harrison, and an unnamed infant son who was born in 1840.

The diary has been placed with the Indiana State Library.

Battles fought by the 85th Indiana Volunteer Rifles included: Thompson Station, Tenn., March 5, 1863; Franklin, Tenn., April 10, and June 4 and 5, 1863; Resacca, Ga., May 15, 1864; Cofsville, Ga., May 20, 1864; Punkin-vine Creek, Ga., June 16, 1864.

Also, New Hope-Hope Church, Ga., June 16, 1864; Culp's Farm, Ga., June 22, 1864 (remaining under fire until July 8); Peach-Tree Creek, Ga., July 10, 1864 (under fire until Aug. 16); Chattahoochee River, Ga., Aug. 18, 1864 (marched into Atlanta Sept. 1); Savannah, Ga., Dec. 10, 1864 (under fire until marched into city Dec. 21).

The next year, the battles included Loudan-ville, S.C., Feb. 2, 1865; Avers-boro, N.C., March 10, 1865; and Kentonville, N.C., March 19, 1865.

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Civil War stories

Years later, local soldiers recalled horrors of combat

13 MAR 11 1990

Before World War I, The Terre Haute Tribune featured a series of Sunday articles about local men who had served in the Civil War. John Campbell served in the Union army from July 21, 1861, to Feb. 20, 1865. Seven of his brothers also fought in the war. Three of them died in the horrors of Andersonville and Libby prisons. John sacrificed his left arm and his eyesight. Everyone of the Campbell boys sustained maiming wounds.

John enlisted at the age of 23 years. He was assigned to Company C of the 23rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry and was with that outfit when it became the First U.S. Heavy Artillery. He served in this branch of service until he lost his arm. Following his recovery in the hospital, he served with Company C, Veteran Reserve Corps, until the end of the war.

Enlisting for three months service at Bowling Green in Clay County, Campbell left his young wife and started for Washington, D.C. Before he reached Brazil, however, orders came through countermanding three-month enlistments, making the term of service for three years. Campbell was sent to Baltimore for active duty.

Young Campbell went through many fierce fights, but the Battle of Bull Run was his first real battle. It remained clear in his memory the rest of his life, the most horrifying of all his war experiences.

Like most of the northern recruits, he was new to warfare. Full of courage, they lacked the experience necessary to succeed in the fierce fighting that followed the attack on the Confederate army.

The watchword of the Union army in camp at Washington was "on to Richmond," and the officers' commands were considered as simply pointing out the easiest route to reach their destination.

Gen. Beauregard was at

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Centerville, only 27 miles from Washington, with a large force of rebel soldiers, and Gen. McDowell was in command at Washington. Here the two newly recruited armies waited, facing each other.

Gen. Sherman was one of the officers at Washington. On July 20, he led the men out of the city on their way to Richmond. Beauregard knew all the movements of the Union army. His information was relayed to one of his spies by a woman prominent in Washington society. His men crossed the Potomac River at night with the news.

The advancing army planned to cross Bull Run River at three different places and attack the rebels. About the same time, a division of the rebel army started north to cross the river.

Showing little discipline on the march, the newly enlisted men stopped to pick berries, fill their canteens, loitering and losing much valuable time.

Campbell remembered this march well, as it kept his temper on edge and was hard to bear. The Union men under Tyler reached Stone Bridge at 6 a.m., and here the first fighting took place. But this attack was only to draw the attention of the rebels, while the main body of the army crossed the river three miles farther up.

Southern commander Evans found out about this plan, and when Tyler failed to cross the bridge, he knew the movement was only a bluff. He stationed his men on a high bluff where they could watch the upper ford and the bridge at the same time.

Pushing on with all possible speed, the main body of the army swung toward the ford and was greeted with heavy artillery fire. For a time, both armies hesitated in the blazing July sun, separated by a thin strip of woods. Then the Union army began to advance.

The battle began at 10 a.m. With the terrible bloodshed at Bull Run, the bitter war was begun, and every state in both the North and South waited tensely for the result.

During the morning, Campbell was in the thick of the close-range fighting. The Union forces gained a slight advantage. The First Division of the Confederates broke ground and retreated, with the northern soldiers cheering at their heels. But reinforcements arrived, and Campbell and his comrades were stopped.

Gen. Jackson was in the midst of the fleeing Confederates. Standing in his stirrups, he ordered his retreating men to charge. It was here he was given the title of "Stonewall" Jackson by Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Beauregard was trying to reorganize his men when his horse was killed under him by an exploding shell. By the middle of the afternoon, McDowell and the Union soldiers believed they had won a victory.

Campbell said the men were proud of their actions and were strutting around like peacocks. About this time the Confederate troops returned to the attack. Without the knowledge of the Union officers, Johnson had brought up fresh troops. The tired Union soldiers were plunged into

five hours of fierce fighting. They were not veterans, and the awful sights on the battlefield began to affect them. They were learning about the horrors of war when another wave of rebel soldiers charged the lines.

Outnumbered, raked with artillery and musket fire from two sides, and tired out, the Union lines wavered, broke, and then fled. The men scattered and started back to Washington, burning their bridges behind them. Many Washington residents had driven out in carriages to see the battle from long range. Soon the soldiers were mixed up with the frightened spectators, all going north.

The victorious rebels could not follow up their advantage. They simply held their position. This was Campbell's first experience under fire, and 500 of his gallant comrades lost their lives during the eight hours of bitter fighting.

History shows us that this battle did more harm to the Confederacy than to the Union. Southerners thought the war was over and returned home. Northerners realized the magnitude of the war, and vowed to fight to the bitter end.

Campbell was on board ship at New Orleans when that city surrendered to the North. Several men suffered eye damage from the wind-blown, fine white sand. Fifty years after the war, Campbell was only able to distinguish light from dark.

It was at Ackers during a fierce skirmish in the woods that a bullet crashed through his arm shattering the bone. At a nearby hospital, surgeons amputated his arm above the wrist. Later, more surgery and treatments were necessary. Campbell remained in the army as a member of the veteran reserve even though his left arm was maimed and his eyesight was failing.

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Community Affairs File

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Soldier wrote about Civil War

15 NOV 06 1994



Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

In the early years of the Civil War, Will St. Clair, a Vigo County resident, wrote a letter to his cousins, Hattie and Lib. His notepaper was decorated in blue and had an eagle flying over the head of George Washington, with the words: "First in War, First in Peace, and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen."

Writing from Camp Calhoun, Tenn., young Will was still not far from home on Nov. 8, 1861, nor had he seen much of the actual war that he was to experience later.

"Dear Cousin Hattie," he wrote, "I received yours of the 23rd, and was truly glad to hear from you, but I am sorry that I've nothing of any importance to write to you.

"There is considerable excitement here. The people are coming to us from all quarters for protection. The rebels are driving them out of the country. There was 300 come last night, women and children, and the rebels are committing all kinds of depredations on the citizens and stealing everything they can find, but we will stop this in a few days. We sent out 200 cavalry this morning, and we will go next.

"We left Henderson last Friday, and it rained all day and

night, and we had a hard time climbing over the mountains and hills. We were two days coming 35 miles, but we have got a beautiful camp here. It is on the top of a high hill on the bank of the Green River. There is a Secesh town on the other side of the river, but they left when they heard we was coming except what few Union people there was there.

"That old fellow that we took the tobacco from has left home and gone in the Secesh army. We took two steam boats from the rebels. We are using them to carry the mail from Evansville up here to us. We are 93 miles right south from Evansville.

"You wanted to know whether I had written to Thirze or not. I've written two and got one answer. I Believe I've written all

I can at present. You must write and tell the rest of the folks to write. They all wait for me to write first.

"I got a letter from Brad the other day. He is learning the tinner's trade at town. Direct your letters in the same way that you did then they will come to me wherever I am. [signed] Will St. Clair."

The second half of this Civil War letter was addressed to his cousin Lib.

"I will try to write you a few lines. I have written a letter every day since I been here, and I am about out of anything to write. Soldiers life is easy and very hard in some respect.

"I am very well satisfied in the service of my country, and would be if it was as hard again, although home is dear to one that has a happy home. But I never expect to see home until peace is restored to the Union.

"I would not be satisfied if I was there and my friends gone and me at home neutral if the war lasts ten years. My mind is now that I will stay unless it is my lot to fall among the many on the battle field. We have plenty to eat, plenty for soldiers on the battlefield ... we have bacon and coffee and sea biscuit that is so hard that a wagon can run

over them and not break them. We have to soak them in coffee until they get so we can eat them. We have beans sometimes and beef when we get them. We have a feast and potatoes.

"Well, Lib, I have to go to dinner, and I will have to quit writing. You must write again soon. Give my love to the best looking girl out there. [signed] William St. Clair to Coz Lib Carico."

According to St. Clair family records, William St. Clair was born Dec. 9, 1843, the son of Nelson St. Clair and Eliza J. Beard, early settlers of Vigo and Sullivan counties. He died at the age of 74 years, at the home of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Harry Blouch, of Terre Haute.

He was survived by the widow, Docia Fowler, whom he married in 1868, and three sons, William, Eugene and Sylvester. He also had one brother, Sylvester.

Civil War diaries and letters are always of great interest for Historically Speaking columns of the future. Over the years readers have loaned them to me for enjoying and extracting the most interesting parts for a future column. Let me hear from you.

Civil War diaries best account of battles

APR 04 1993

The Battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburgh Landing, occurred April 6 through 7, 1862, and was the first great battle of the Civil War. The importance of this victory for the Union cause was immediately recognized and appreciated in the North.

The events of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson made General Grant famous, and the Battle of Shiloh was considered by many to mark the beginning of the end of the great War of the Rebellion.

Civil War diaries are invaluable sources of history and should be carefully guarded, placed in library collections, and copied or microfilmed for future generations to study. They furnish history and genealogy.

One such diary was kept by two brothers, David W. and Joseph P. Stratton, from Aug. 6, 1861, to Jan. 16, 1863. It furnishes a view of the Civil War through the eyes of two private soldiers.

The first entry in the small, leather-bound book tells of going to Indianapolis, into Camp Sullivan, and spending "the night in great hilarity." The next day they "moved to Camp Morton. The boys are very awkward cooking, but get along very well."

On Aug. 12, they returned to Sullivan and "commenced the work of recruiting our company in order to get ready to go to Camp Vigo at Terre Haute."

The site of Camp Vigo is marked on the highway north of Maple Avenue near the intersection of Florida Avenue. Many Indiana recruits received their basic training here for Civil War service.

On Aug. 20, the company met to go to Terre Haute by train, but they received a dispatch

Historically speaking



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from the state adjutant general "not to come until quarters were fixed." The next day, they traveled to Camp Vigo "by private conveyance," arriving Aug. 22 "after a pleasant day's ride ... weather very warm."

On Sept. 15, the 31st Regiment was sworn into service for three years by Lt. Col. Wood. It was organized at Terre Haute, and Charles Cruft was chosen colonel.

Soon after the regiment left Camp Vigo for Evansville where they "got aboard a steamboat for Henderson, Ky., where they landed and pitched tents in an old lot in the east part of the city."

On Oct. 16, Company D and Company K of the 31st, along with 25 men from the 25th Kentucky, were ordered on a scouting expedition in Webster County. They marched 11 miles that night, slept an hour, and marched all the next day. The next night they slept in an old tobacco house, and returned to camp the next night "very tired and hungry."

The Stratton brothers were very careful to note the miles they marched. This first entry was a small sample of the total

mileage noted in the diary.

They remained in camp at Calhoun, Ky., on the Green River until a few days prior to the siege of Fort Donelson. Moving from Calhoun on Feb. 11, the 31st reached the battlefield in time to participate in the engagement of the 14th and 15th and at the surrender on Feb. 16. The 31st lost 68 of its men — 12 killed, 52 wounded and four missing.

They marched across country to Fort Henry, and on March 10 joined Gen. Grant's expedition up the Tennessee River to Pittsburgh Landing. Arriving there on March 15, they were assigned to the 3rd Brigade of Gen. S.A. Hurlbut's Division. On April 5, Gen. Lauman took command.

On the back of the monument erected by the State of Indiana in memory of the 31st Regiment Infantry Volunteers, in Shiloh National Military Park, at Pittsburgh Landing, Tenn., is the following inscription:

"This regiment took this position April 6, 1862, at 8:30 a.m., and held it against repeated charges of the enemy until 2:30 p.m. During this time the woods in front caught fire, and many dead and wounded were burned. The regiment was then transferred to the left and was engaged east of the Hamburg Road until 2 p.m. when it slowly retired to the support of the siege guns. On Monday, April 7, it was engaged during the day on the right of center of the Army. Casualties: killed, two officers and 19 men; wounded, four officers and 110 men; missing, two men; total, 138."

The roster of Company D, with the names of 106 men, some from Terre Haute, some

from Sullivan, was found in the front of the Stratton diary. In some cases, the date of death or other pertinent information was written after the names.

Following the Battle of Shiloh, Company D of the 31st moved on to the Siege of Corinth, Miss., marching "in mud knee deep." On June 23, 1862, they marched to Tusculum, Ala., where they "found the Sullivan boys and the 13th Indiana all well and in fine spirits."

All that summer and fall they marched all over the South, some times riding on the Alabama & Tennessee Railroad to places like Nashville, Renald's Station, Galatin, Murfreesboro, McMinnville, Bowling Green, Glasgow and Munfordsville.

At Hardinsville the entry read: "got up at midnight and cooked flap jacks til daylight ... Sept. 24, left Hardinsville at sunrise ..."

On Oct. 22, the brigade marched to the Goose Creek Salt Works near Manchester in Clay County, Ky. The next day they destroyed the Salt Works and 30,000 bushels of salt by order of Gen. Buell.

Two days later they were camped on the eastern bank of the Rock Castle River where it snowed all night and the men nearly froze to death. "Snow six inches deep. Several of the boys are barefooted and have no blankets ..." That night they found straw and hay to sleep in.

The last few days of 1862 and the first days of 1863 were spent in the battle at Murfreesboro. The diary ends suddenly with the last entry: "Jan. 6, 1863. Moved camp three miles from town on the McMinnville Pike."

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Community Affairs File

★ Clark, Dorothy (J) ★ (1945-1993) (1916-1993)

Ts AUG 08 1993

Letters told of battles, misery

Civil War correspondence is always interesting to read. The letters tell of skirmishes, battles, troop movements, the never-ending rumors that plague every army camp and long marches.

The 13 letters of Sgt. Abraham Slough to his "dear and loving wife," Lydia A. Slough, tell much more. They reveal his strong belief in the Northern cause, his opinions of his officers, his fellow soldiers, and his undying confidence in his wife to "keep the home fires burning."

Enrolled by Capt. McNaught as a First Sergeant of Company A, Fifty-Ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, at Spencer on Oct. 10, 1861, Abraham Slough was mustered into U.S. service Feb. 11, 1862, for three years by Major Carpenter, and left Camp Hughes at Gosport in Owen County for the front on Feb. 13.

He was described as 38 years old, six feet tall, of dark complexion, with gray eyes and brown hair. Born in Stokes County, N.C., his occupation was farming.

Older than most of the volunteers, he was proud of the fact that he had enlisted, and in his letters he scoffed at those who waited to be drafted. Slough was fated to die just one year later.

His first letter to his wife was written aboard the steamer "Choutain," laying just above Fort Pillow, Ark., on April 15, 1862.

The next one was dated May 3 from the "army in the field." "I again this morning take my pen in hand to inform you that through the Goodness of God I am still well and hearty hoping this may reach you and find you

Historically speaking



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all enjoying good health and in fine spirit for I find that being in good spirits is about half the battle."

Many of his letters were written with this same sentiment, and much as he missed his wife and baby daughters, he was trying to take an adult attitude in their separation.

At this time Company A of the 59th Regiment was within 12 miles of Corinth, Miss., as the reserve guard of the left wing, a few hundred yards from the state line of Mississippi and "of all the poor counties I ever saw this beats all — only fit to raise broom sage and huckleberries."

Sickness was prevalent in this company. He mentioned J. Tipton, J. West and J. Fiscus as being ill. "Of 62 men only about 30 are able for duty, but 40 that do duty." Lt. Hyden was sick. Will Mounts was left in the hospital at Hamburg. Griffith was furloughed home.

The third letter was written from a camp near Corinth, on May 22, and he mentioned receiving a letter from John T. Slough (possibly a brother?) who

was at Cumberland Ford, Ky.

The next letter told of "Uncle William" and Robert Dyan, who arrived too late to see their son and brother, William W. Dyan, before his death. The burying detail was just returning when the family arrived. This was June 23.

"Uncle William" was to deliver the letter and "get a good dinner" and tell her all the news of the Secesch country.

On July 5 the camp was near Rienza, Miss. Abraham had seen some "splendid farms and wherever we stopped it was woe to the hogs, sheep, geese, chickens, potatoes, and bee hives and blackberries."

Lydia's letters were mailed to him from Stockton and Point Commerce to see which would reach him sooner.

On July 24, he wrote from Camp Clear Creek, Miss., and asked her to send him the weight of each of their children and whether they were growing and how much. Several business matters were mentioned and his advice given, but always with the thoughts that his trust in her judgment was very strong.

The seventh and eighth letters, dated Aug. 9 and Sept. 4, came from a camp near San Jacinto, Miss., the county seat of Tishomingo County. The ninth letter, dated Sept. 7, came from Camp Rienzi, six miles from San Jacinto.

On Dec. 17, Company A was camped seven miles south of Oxford, Miss., where he was "regaining health and back to duty as orderly in the camp."

Sanitation being what is was

in the Civil War, it's a miracle that more did not die than did. Every disease and complaint became epidemic, and even the hardiest failed to survive. In this letter Abraham mentions his daughters, Syrena and Avilene.

In spite of positive thinking and a strong will, Sgt. Slough did not regain his health, as the next letter, dated Feb. 6, 1863, came from Overton Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. He stated he was feeling better, but had a bad cold. He was on the fifth floor of the hospital, had a good view of the city and the rivers, but was tired of looking at them. There was four inches of snow on the ground, and the temperature stood at 28 degrees.

The last two letters also were from Overton Hospital and written Feb. 15. Sgt. Slough was a very sick man with chronic diarrhea, unable to sit up, and wanting to see his wife before he died; but stubborn enough to forbid her to make the difficult and dangerous journey. Thinking always of her, he asked that Solomon Boyles be appointed his administrator, in case of his death.

Slough died Feb. 16, and two days later Lt. James E. Hyden of Co. A, 59th Regiment, Indiana Infantry, wrote the sad letter to Mrs. L.A. Slough, telling of her husband's death. He carefully drew a map of the burial site in the Clem Wood Cemetery, one and a half miles southeast of the city of Memphis, and offered his assistance in having the body brought back to Indiana, if she so desired.

Civil War diary shows struggle

10
Ts AUG 14 1994

The Civil War diary of Franklin Z. Winters tells of four years of travel and soldiering.

He enlisted Aug. 12, 1861, and helped organize a company at Robinson, Ill., electing Thomas G. Markley, captain. On the 20th the company started for Camp Butler and was sworn in a week later for a term of three years. Winters was elected corporal, the regiment was organized, and left for Cairo on the 30th.

Company D numbered 86 men in the Thirtieth Regiment, 850 men commanded by Col. P.B. Foulk. On Nov. 6, the 22, 27th and 31st Illinois and the 7th Iowa (2,850 men) embarked on steamers with Taylor's Battery, a small detachment of cavalry with two gunboats, the Tyler and the Lexington. Next day they landed three miles above Columbus on the Missouri side of the Mississippi river and took up a line of march down river. This land force was under General Grant.

In the battle of Belmont, 10 of the 30th Regiment's were killed, 28 wounded. Company D lost Major Thomas McClerkin and Capt. F.G. Markley, plus six wounded. On their return to Cairo, they erected new barracks and went to winter quarters Dec. 6.

The hardships of the winter of 1861 began with the "Kentucky March" or "Hay Scout," twelve days of marching through the mud and the severe cold over rough, hilly country. This toughened up the hardy men and killed off or ruined the health of the weaker ones.



Historically Speaking

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A few weeks later the regiment left for Fort Henry. After its capture, marching orders were received to proceed against rebel Fort Donelson on the Cumberland river.

The 30th Illinois Regiment was in the worst of the battle from beginning to end. Their flag was the first flown over the courthouse of Dover, and theirs was the first U.S. flag flown over Fort Donelson and its garrison. With the 31st Illinois, the regiment remained in Dover until April 21, when they were removed to Pittsburgh Landing and put in Logan's Brigade. Cpl. Winters was ill in the hospital and left behind, returning to the regiment in May, 1862.

A detailed map is necessary to follow the movements of the 30th Illinois from April on. They marched to Corinth, Mississippi; Purdy; Bolivar, on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad where they took the cars to Jackson, Tenn.; next to Brownsville in wagons. Near this place occurred the battle of Britton Lane, a bloody battle against rebel cavalry forces.

Reinforced the next morning, they marched on to relieve the

18th Illinois, and "spent the day procuring pork and sweet potatoes and making ourselves comfortable."

On Nov. 15, 1862, they were relieved by the 23rd Indiana, and went foraging, filling 75 wagons with corn and fodder. They built a mud and stick chimney to their tent also.

By December they were in Holly Springs, Abbeyville, Miss., on the Tallahatchee river and Oxford, Miss. The men were allowed fresh meat if they did not fire a gun, so Cpl. Winters killed a hog with his hatchet.

Christmas was spent on the bare campground, no tents, and next morning Cpl. Winters' breakfast consisted of a pint of coffee boiled in a tin cup, some hard crackers and cold boiled beef from his knapsack. Christmas dinner was the same with tea replacing coffee and an addition of parched corn.

A few days later about 100 men of this brigade went out on scout mounted on mules and artillery horses. Led by the chaplain, they rounded up 75 head of cattle and as many sheep and drove them back to camp. Some of the men went foraging for corn and made hominy. Communication lines had been cut, and the men had no supplies to supplement their half rations, so they had to live off the land. They ground rye, coffee and corn on the plantation mills. They received no letters or newspapers, had used their last paper and envelopes, and there was none to buy. So ended 1862.

The next year began with marching to different locations

on the railroad. The weather went from bad to worse. The snow was so heavy it broke the tent poles. Much time was devoted to carrying wood for the fires.

By the time Cpl. Winters arrived at Memphis he was "blue." It seems military discipline was slack and soldiers were drinking and fighting. It took a dress parade to put the men back in order, and on Winters' 31st birthday, Feb. 13, 1863, his army service was half over.

A week later, the men went 300 miles down river to Lake Providence, La., in 12 steamers. He met up with his nephew, Wm. Dodds, Company C, 24th Indiana.

After a brief visit home, he marched south until June 1864 he was in Georgia in the Kennesaw mountains. On June 27 he was shot in the right shoulder and carried to a field hospital, then on to Division Hospital. He described it as a tent with a cot with husk mattress and good care.

In July, some 200 wounded were sent to Altoona on the railroad. Late in August, he was sent home by the division surgeon and traveled by train as far as Palestine, Ill., before taking a hack home to Hutsonville.

He attended a bonfire celebration at Terre Haute in honor of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and heard R.W. Thompson deliver a speech. Winters was mustered out of service July 18, 1865, and finally paid July 27, after nearly four years of travel and soldiering.

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Community Affairs File

Wabash Valley heroes

Book outlines history of local Civil War soldiers

SEP 29 1991

In 1903, Col. William E. McLean published a history of the 43rd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers of the Civil War.

Company D of the 43rd was raised in Vigo County with Wesley W. Norris, captain. A resident of Hartford, now Pimento, Ind., in Vigo County, Norris was commissioned as captain of Company D on Sept. 18., 1861. He was advanced to the rank of major on March 7, 1862.

Numbering about 300 strong, the 43rd Regiment was organized at Terre Haute on Sept. 27, 1861. Companies were drawn from Vigo, Sullivan, Greene, Vermillion, Putnam, Clay and Parke counties.

Soon after its muster into service, the regiment was transferred to Spottsville, Ky., and from there to Calhoun, where it remained in camp undergoing rigorous basic training until February 1862. The regiment was transferred to Missouri and assigned to Brig. Gen. John Pope's Army of the Missouri.

The 43rd first saw service in Kentucky in 1862, then took part in the campaign up and down the Mississippi River and in Arkansas. The 43rd was a part of the operation that led to the fall of New Madrid and Island No. 10, and then with the gunboat flotilla at Fort Pillow.

The 43rd was the first Union regiment to land in Memphis on June 6, 1862, and with the 46th Regiment, was garrisoned at the city for the next several weeks.

In July 1862, the 43rd was ordered up the White River, then

Historically speaking



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on to Helena, Ark. In late November, the regiment accompanied the column Brig. Gen. Alvin P. Hovey led across the Delta to the mouth of the Coldwater.

Late winter found the 43rd taking part in the Yazoo Pass expedition. At the battle of Helena on July 4, the regiment distinguished itself, and took part in Gen. Steele's campaign resulting in the capture of Little Rock.

On Jan. 1, 1864, the 43rd re-enlisted at Little Rock. About 400 veterans re-mustered. Seven weeks before the Union authorities launched their massive "win the war" offensive against the Confederate forces in Virginia and Georgia, they inaugurated the Red River Campaign in March 1864.

An amphibious force was to move up the Red River toward Shreveport, La. A second federal force would move on to Shreveport from Little Rock. If all went according to plan, these two powerful columns would be able to deal with the Rebel forces. But war is a risky business, and the Union

master plan which looked so good on paper failed completely.

Gen. Steele's campaign into southern Arkansas was to consolidate Federal gains of the Trans-Mississippi Department by joining up with Federal forces moving north from New Orleans.

Initially, Steele met with little opposition, and reached Camden without too much difficulty. Here he was stopped by the Confederates and a shortage of supplies. Also, the federal forces from New Orleans were unable to continue north of the Red River.

Steele took all difficulties into consideration and decided to retreat to the comparative safety of Little Rock. Withdrawal was costly. The Battle of Poison Springs, outside Camden, and the beating the Union army took there, sped Steele's move.

Inclement weather slowed troop movement, and Steele's troops were harassed all the way back to Little Rock. The Battle of Mark's Mills would have been a disaster if the Confederates pursued their advantage.

However, the Union troops withdrew successfully, and stood on the north banks of the Saline River at Jenkins' Ferry to protect their crossing and final retreat to Little Rock. Here again the Rebels failed to follow through. If they had, the Civil War situation in Arkansas would have been completely different.

William E. McLean of Terre Haute entered military service Sept. 11, 1861, as lieutenant col-

onel and made colonel of the 43rd on Jan. 16, 1862, on the resignation of Col. Steele. McLean was in command of the regiment until it was mustered out in June 1865.

McLean was born Oct. 12, 1832, in Frederick City, Md., and was brought to Terre Haute in 1841 to be reared by his grandmother, Mrs. Dorcas Cookerly, following the death of his parents.

He graduated from Indiana University, class of 1849, and taught school locally before taking up the study of law. He was admitted to the bar in 1852.

McLean also became editor of the Terre Haute Journal, a weekly Democratic newspaper, until 1854, when he was elected prosecuting attorney for Vigo County Circuit Court. In 1860 he was elected to serve in the Indiana Legislature, but resigned to serve in the war.

After the Civil War, he was elected again to the legislature in 1866, and was instrumental in securing an appropriation for the Indiana State Normal School in Terre Haute.

Active in state and national politics, McLean was appointed first deputy commissioner of pensions in 1885 by President Grover Cleveland. After becoming a prominent attorney in Washington, D.C., he returned to Terre Haute.

McLean Junior High School (now the administration building of the Vigo County School Corporation) was named for this prominent Terre Hautean and war hero.

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Community Affairs File

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Community Affairs File

A Clark, Dorothy (Historian)

Horrors of Civil War

Poor medical attention made many soldiers suffer

Is AUG 23 1992
Twin sons were born Dec. 13, 1841, to Thomas C. and Elizabeth (Griffith) Parker, in Hendricks County. Sometime in the late 1850s, the family moved to Brown County, Ill.

These 20-year-old twins, Thomas Jefferson Parker and George Washington Parker, enlisted July 25, 1862, in the Union Army at Mt. Sterling, Brown County, Ill. Of the 155 able-bodied males between the ages of 18 and 45 in Buckhorn Township, 45 enlisted in the Civil War. Thomas enlisted in Company D, 84th Illinois Infantry, while George enlisted in Company E, 16th Illinois Infantry.

Company D was mustered in Sept. 1, 1862. They spent about three weeks in Illinois being trained and drilled in army maneuvers. On Sept. 23, they left Illinois for Louisville, Ky., where they were attached to the 10th Brigade, Fourth Division, Second Army Corps, Army of the Ohio.

From Oct. 16 they pursued Bragg into Kentucky including the battle of Perryville, Ky. After the pursuit to Loudon until Oct. 22 they were relieved of campaigning for a time. The company was marched to Nashville, Tenn., between Oct. 22 and Nov. 7, transferred to the Army of the Cumberland and served duty at Nashville until Dec. 26.

The 84th was involved in the advance on Murfreesboro, Tenn., Dec. 26-30, and the battle of

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Stone's River from Dec. 30 through Jan. 3. Sometime during this campaign, Thomas was either wounded or became ill, for records show he was absent in hospital at Nashville during most of January and February.

He returned to the Company on March 8, 1863, from a convalescent camp in Nashville. The regiment was still in Murfreesboro and stayed there until June. They were occupied with campaigns and the occupation of Middle Tennessee until Aug. 16.

The Army of the Cumberland began the passage of the mountains and the Tennessee River toward Chickamauga, Ga., where the battles took place Sept. 17-20, 1863. Thomas was wounded there. In the confusion of battle, a horse of one of the cavalymen stepped on Thomas' back, causing contusion of the spine. He was in Nashville hospital for some time and absent from duty until Jan. 28, 1864.

By the time he was returned to his company, they had been through a number of skirmishes, including the Chattanooga-Ringgold campaign in November 1863. When he returned, they were camped near Whiteside, Tyner's Station and Blue Springs until May 1864.

From May through September, they took part in the Atlanta, Ga., campaign. Early in the assault on Buzzard Roost and Rocky Face Gap near Walton, Ga., on May 9, Thomas received a gunshot wound on his left hand. Three of his fingers were injured and one finger was amputated at the first joint.

It took two days to transport him from the battlefield to the General Hospital at Chattanooga. During the next five days he was transferred from there to military hospitals in Nashville, Jeffersonville, Ind., and finally to Madison, Ind., for a month when he was furloughed until June 17, 1864.

During this furlough he went back to Brown County, Ill., and married on July 3, 1864, Lydia C. Sumner at Mt. Sterling at her father's residence.

When his furlough ended July 19, he returned to active duty, but he was having problems with the gunshot wounds and was sent back to General Hospital, Quincy, Ill. By Aug. 14 he was transferred to Company 34, Second Battalion of Veterans' Reserve Corps, because of his wounds and was assigned de-

tached service at Springfield, Ill., guarding hospitals, and caring for the clothing and effects of patients.

Thomas J. Parker was discharged on May 26, 1865, on a surgeon's certificate at U.S. General Hospital in Mound City, Ill.

Hand wounds generally were regarded as trivial accidents, but they were very painful and troublesome. There were over 11,000 cases of shot injuries of the hand reported in the Civil War. Over two-thirds of those wounds caused irreparable damage and demanded amputation.

All bone splinters and the small balls used in the guns of that day had to be removed. In a way, Thoams was very lucky. Medical attention at the front lines always was a horror story. Ambulances and army wagons with two tiers of flooring, loaded with wounded, were drawn by teams of four mules and six mules, the teamsters lashing their teams to keep up with the trains.

The wounded screamed with pain as the wagons jolted over corduroy roads. A man with an arm off at the shoulder had maggots half an inch long crawling in the sloughing flesh. Several poor fellows were holding stumps of legs and arms straight up in the air to ease the pain of the rough roads.

Next week's column will continue the Civil War accounts of war and all its horrors.

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Horrors of Civil War

Quality of food supplies problem for soldiers

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Today's column continues the story of the Parker twin and his experiences in the Civil War battlegrounds, hospitals and home finally to Illinois.

A field hospital where stretcher-bearers brought the wounded was described in detail. Under three large tent flaps, the center one the largest of all, stood three heavy wooden tables, around which were grouped a number of surgeons and their assistants.

The surgeons were bare-headed and clad in long linen dusters reaching to the ground. They were covered with blood from top to bottom and had the sleeves cut off or rolled to the shoulders.

The stretcher-bearers deposited the wounded side by side in a row on the ground in front of the table under the first tent flap. Assistants lifted the wounded on the first table, and others were moved up the line so no time was lost. Some of the surgeons administered an anesthetic to the patient, exposed his wound, and passed him on to the center table.

There the surgeon made an examination and determined what was to be done and did it. More often than not, in a very few minutes, an arm or a leg was flung out on a pile behind the hospital — a pile more than six feet high and three feet wide.

What remained of the man was passed on to the third table where other surgeons finished the bandaging, resuscitated him, and posted him off with others in an ambulance.

Generally, the Union troops had plenty to eat, although there is no question that their diet was poorly balanced and the quality left a good deal to be desired. At

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

times the men existed on short rations, such as the time the Army of the Cumberland existed on three ears of corn a day while encircled at Chattanooga in the fall of 1863, and those were exceptions.

Some of the beef supplied to the army was salted so heavily to preserve it for supposedly two years, that it had to be soaked in water to make it somewhat edible. Much of the salt pork was musty and rancid. Even the fresh beef supplied to the army usually was tough and sometimes made the men ill.

The hard bread often was wet and moldy or so hard it had to be soaked to make it soft enough to eat. Sometimes it was infested with maggots or weevils.

A typical day of the Union Army on the march began with breaking camp. The order of march was issued the night before for an early march. At 3 a.m., the watch fires burned dimly, and it was so silent it was difficult to imagine that 20,000 men were within a few miles radius.

In an instant all changed. The bugle sounded out reveille, along with the beating of the drums.

Camp fires begin cooking breakfast. Potatoes fried nicely in well-larded pans, chickens roasted on red-hot coals, a coffee pot steamed. Horses and mules munched corn and piles of fodder before being hitched to the traces, droves of beef cattle were released from the corral, knapsacks were strapped on, men picked up their guns, and bugles sounded for the soldiers to fall into line and file out on the road.

A day's march varied according to the countryside. If a battle was anticipated, the supply trains were shifted to the rear of the center. Divisions having the lead moved in close fighting trim. Ambulances followed in the rear along with the pack mules loaded with all cooking equipment.

A long line of muskets gleamed in the morning sun as the soldiers marched. If the General of the Division was a fighting man, he was found near the front. Mounted officers rode through the fields on either side of the line of march. General Sherman never broke into the line of march of a regiment or brigade. He waited until it passed, and then fell in. He said that they, and not he, had the right to the road.

Stops on the day's march included road repair, fording a stream, foraging, and the men had time to drink the creek water, pour it over their heads, wipe the sweat off their brow, and munch a piece of hardtack. When the bugle sounded "fall-in," "attention" and "forward," all these activities were dropped and the march was on the road again.

After 10 or 15 miles were traveled, the column went into

camp again. Campfires were placed on sloping ground near wood and water. The troops put up their shelter tents and prepared supper. Animals were fed and bedded down for the night. Soon tattoo rang out, "go to rest, go to rest," followed by "Taps," "out lights, out lights, out lights!" Soldiers rolled in their blankets to sleep; picket guards kept watch.

The 84th Illinois Infantry mustered in with 939 men, Sept. 1, 1862. Of those 939 men, 689 were killed — 558 in battle, seven by accident and 124 of disease.

All of the information about the Parker twins was found in compiled military records. These records are arranged by state and thereunder in alphabetical order by name of soldier. If the name is a common one, it's necessary to know the company and regiment in which he served.

It is possible to determine the unit an ancestor served in during the Civil War if his place of residence after the war is known. One can look in the 1890 special enumeration of Union soldiers. Although this enumeration is not complete, it may be helpful and should be checked.

If the soldier or his heirs applied for a pension after the war, his service records are included in his pension record. Most states have published Adjutant General's Report that lists all who served in units from that state.

The National Archives has a series of records of volunteer regiments consisting of about 1,600 lineal feet — Record Group 94 — which is a gold mine of family history information.